Daily Report

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Mexican Envoy Proposes Closer Ties With Caricom

FL2002194091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1538 GMT 20 Feb 91

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Feb 20, CANA—The new Mexican ambassador to Barbados and the eastern Caribbean says the Central American state wants to develop closer ties with Barbados and the wider Caribbean, according to a Government Information Service (GIS) release here.

Paying a courtesy call on Barbados Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford Tuesday [19 February], non-resident Ambassador Hector Manuel Ezeta said Mexico would soon seek to bring together regional business and government officials in a seminar to explore joint venture possibilities and ways to develop trade relations.

Sandiford, who welcomed the planned Mexican initiative, said there were many ways in which Barbados and Mexico could maintain peace, development, and growth for their people.

Ezeta was scheduled to leave Barbados Wednesday.

Common Market Treaty To Be Signed by March

PY2202011691 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2243 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 21 Feb (TELAM)—By mid-March the presidents of Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, and Paraguay will sign a treaty in Asuncion which will mark the beginning of the creation of the Southern Cone Common Market (Mercosur), which will be fully implemented by 1 January 1995.

Representatives of the four governments today initialed the final text of the quadripartite document, which will be called the Treaty of Asuncion after the city in which Presidents Carlos Menem, Fernando Collor, Luis Lacalle, and Andres Rodriguez will sign it between 10 and 20 March, on a date still to be established.

This announcement was made today by Alieto Guadagni, Argentine under secretary for international economic relations, and Juan Schiaretti, under secretary of foreign industry and commerce, during a news conference at the Foreign Ministry.

The three main points of the treaty concern the free movement of goods, merchandise, and production elements; the adoption of zero-level tariffs on trade and the adoption of a common foreign tariff; and the harmonization of macroeconomic policies and other commercial policies to bring them in step with the rest of the world. [passage omitted]

Andean Pact Presidents To Meet in Caracas in May

PY2502140891 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 11 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] International Andean region experts agree on the importance of the fifth summit of Andean Pact presidents. The summit will take place in Caracas, Venezuela, next May.

Senator Romualdo Biaggi Rodriguez, president of the Andean Pact parliament, said that the presence of Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori will reinforce regional integration and help seek the appropriate mechanisms to find concrete solutions to common problems. Biaggi said that during the summit in Caracas, the Andean presidents will discuss the creation of free trade zones in the region by 1992 and the reinforcement of the Americas Initiative.

The Andean Pact or Cartagena Agreement was signed on 26 May 1969 in Bogota, Colombia. Its objectives are: to promote the balanced and harmonious development of its member countries, to accelerate their economic growth by a rational application of the strategy proposed by the U.S. initiative, and to establish organizational and institutional conditions that will progressively transform the Latin American free trade association into a common market aimed at improving the well-being of the Andean group population.

Andean Nations To Decide on Shared Satellite

PA2602183091 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Within the next two months, the Andean region nations will decide on the satellite project that is more convenient for them. By 1996, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela will be linked, to each other and to the world, through a satellite. The spokesmen of the five Andean nations met today in Bogota to decide on this issue.

Colombia's efforts to have its own satellite began under President Turbay's administration. At that time, the idea was to have a satellite exclusively for Colombia in its geo-stationary orbit. During President Bethancourt's administration, however, it was determined that there was not enough money to pay for Colombia to have a satellite exclusively for itself. Therefore, the Andean region nations decided they would share a satellite and at that time the Condor satellite was mentioned. When the Andean nations reviewed the costs, however, this resulted in a $300-million tab for a satellite of which only 40 percent was going to be used. After reviewing those costs, the international satellite company Sintersat [expansion unknown] came up with a new idea. The idea was to rent part of a satellite. The cost came down from $300 million to $60 million. This is the proposal which the spokesmen of the five Andean governments are starting to study today. The Telecom [Colombian Telecommunications Enterprise] president considers that the renting phase will be temporary and that in the year 2000 the Andean nations will own their own satellite.

Cuba

Havana City Province PCC Elects Executive Bureau

FL2602205291 Havana Radio Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 2110 GMT 24 Feb 91

[Announcement by Abelardo Alvarez, Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) Central Committee member, on the newly elected Executive Bureau of the City of Havana Province PCC Central Committee, made at the provincial party conference in the Palace of Conventions in Havana on 24 February 1991—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Comrade Fidel, comrades: The PCC Provincial Committee has elected, by direct and secret vote:

Comrade Jorge Lezcano Perez as first secretary. [prolonged applause]

To attend to activities of education, science, culture, sports, and health, Comrade Glenda Azoy Quintana;
To attend to activities of organization and ideology, Comrade Elpidio Torres Falcon;
To attend to the food plan, sugar production, and global economy, Comrade Roberto Hidalgo Linares;
To attend to matters of construction and transportation, Comrade Evidio Rodriguez Lopez;
To attend to services related to tourism and communications, Comrade Gladys Bejerano Portela;
To attend to Basic and Light Industries, Comrade Eliezer Perez Armas;

The following were elected nonprofessional members of this bureau: Comrade Pedro Chavez Gonzalez, president of the Provincial Assembly of Peoples' Government; Comrade Alfredo Morales Cartaya, general secretary of the Provincial Cuban Workers Federation; Comrade Teresita Garcia Moruarte, first secretary of the Provincial Union of Young Communists; Comrade Jose (?Angel Noa), party first secretary in Plaza de la Revolucion; Comrade Juan Alberto Perez Aguilar, party first secretary in Cotorro; Comrade Milsa Lescay Garrido, party first secretary in P[illegible]ya; and Comrade Wilfredo Lopez Vazquez, worker in the Cuban Bronze Factory.

Comrade Raul Montpeller Perez was also elected president of the provincial committee of control and oversight.

These are the members of the Provincial Executive Bureau. [prolonged applause] [passage omitted]

Havana City PCC Provincial Assembly Sessions

23 Feb Morning Session

FL2302170291

[Editorial Report] Havana Radio Ciudad de La Habana in Spanish at 1348 GMT on 23 February begins live coverage of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) Provincial Assembly in Havana City Province. The announcer says Cuban President Fidel Castro is in attendance.

The assembly begins with Elpidio Torres Falcon, member of the PCC Provincial Bureau in Havana City, making the opening remarks. He refers to the main report of the assembly. He says the report notes that the results of the assemblies in the PCC Municipal Committees "showed what we are capable of doing even under difficult conditions and expressed the willingness to continue doing more with fewer resources, of struggling with restored energy in the elimination of crime and corrupt behavior wherever they are manifested, and showed a high level of awareness of the problems and inefficiencies we still have which prevent us from achieving higher results, and at the same time, expressed a strong will to face and overcome them." Torres Falcon says they reject capitalist methods and support socialist ones.

Torres Falcon continues to read his opening remarks, noting the work of construction minibrigades, the Pan-American Games facilities, produce markets, and technological centers, among others. He also mentions the work of the agricultural brigades and their accomplishments. He notes that the main report was discussed in a group of important production centers and that the people are familiar with the report's contents through the provincial newspaper and radio stations. Torres Falcon continues by saying that very positive views on the report have been received and this shows that the discussions have been a valuable experience and should be part of the methods the party should use to get more and more involved with the masses.

Torres Falcon states that 501 delegates should have attended the assembly and that 492 are present, and that the absences have been fully justified. He then declares the assembly open. Torres Falcon says that the delegates will have to elect the group presiding over the meeting. The proposal, which has already been distributed, shows that Commander in Chief Fidel Castro is heading the presiding group. When this is mentioned, the audience breaks into applause. The delegates vote and unanimously approve the group that was proposed to preside over the assembly as well as the agenda.

At 1406 GMT, Jorge Lezcano, first secretary of the PCC in Havana City Province, is introduced as moderator of the debates. He says there have been many achievements in Havana but not all problems have been solved. He talks about the agricultural contingent mobilizations as part of the food program. Lezcano says the report that was just read is a point of reference for discussion. He urges the delegates to discuss the most urgent problems the current times demand. He suggests that they begin debating the food program and solve the problems through socialist methods.

At 1420 GMT, Lezcano introduces a number of delegates who talk about their involvement in the food program.

At 1525 GMT, Fidel Castro begins to chat with delegates. He inquires about details of the activities of the people who are working in the agricultural program. Castro asks about the kitchen facilities at the camps, the plates they are using, etc. He refers to the efforts being made to produce potatoes, garlic, and other produce. He says he is pleased to hear that more and more people want to go to the countryside to work in agricultural activities. Castro notes the role of women in the mobilizations to the countryside. He praises the work of the contingents. He also refers to the plans being made to improve living conditions at the camps.

At 1606 GMT, Lezcano announces a 30-minute recess.

Morning Session Continues

FL2302203591

[Editorial Report] Havana Radio Ciudad de La Habana in Spanish at 1635 GMT on 23 February resumes its live coverage of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) Provincial Assembly in Havana City Province after a 30-minute recess.

More delegates continue talking about the food program. One touches on the role industry can play in the program. She says about 30 percent of the workers of the industrial enterprise she works at have been mobilized to agricultural activities at one point in time or another. She explains that they are assembling bicycles and are also using the boxes they come in to collect produce.

As delegates continue talking, at 1707 GMT, Fidel Castro starts asking questions about the number of workers who have been mobilized. Castro notes that the principle they have followed during the special period is to rationalize without leaving anyone without a job. Castro says: "We are looking into not only the productive nature of this movement but also the political nature, that the people participate in this program, that they make it their own." He continues saying: "If each worker were to go to the countryside once, if workers were to go to these camps for only 15 days a week [as heard], a total of 200,000 workers would have to be mobilized a year." He notes that people from the Foreign Ministry, "intellectual workers," go to the countryside to work in agricultural activities four times a year. Castro says they are thinking about permanent solutions because these mobilizations are not going to go on forever. He explains the plans to build agricultural towns.

Castro says they do not want to force a single worker to participate in agricultural activities. He asserts that what he likes the most about the food program movement is that mobilizations have been done on a voluntary basis. Castro points out that in Havana City, with a population of some 2 million, they have practically solved the food production problem with 20,000 people. He says this year they had to mobilize people to build camps and more mobilizations will be needed later to build agricultural towns. Some of the towns will be built fairly close to the city, he says. Noting that some people, although they like the city they feel a little nostalgia for the countryside, have approached him to see if they would be able to live in one of those towns that are going to be built close to Havana. Castro says they have estimated that all the towns they need will be built in some five years.

Castro says they need to take new blood to the countryside. He asserts: "We need to take reinforcements. That reinforcement can only come from the city. They can only come from the city if the people feel good going there so that they can do their work in a regular and professional way, with the appropriate living conditions, where they and their family can live in peace. Those little towns are going to have everything. They are going to have child care centers, schools, clinics, services, and sports areas."

Castro continues to interject remarks and questions as delegates go on explaining their problems and experiences with the food program activities and the assembly of bicycles. Castro also inquires about the young people who did not have a regular job and are now part of the mobilized workers. At one point, Castro, in a good-humored tone of voice, scolds the first secretary of the party in Guanabacoa for not having information on a particular school Castro is familiar with in his municipality. The official accepts the criticism and states he will visit the school first thing in the morning. Castro and a few delegates continue to discuss details about the harvesting of vegetables and tubers.

At 1850 GMT, Lezcano says they will have a two-hour break and that the assembly will resume at 2050 GMT sharp.

23 Feb Evening Session

FL2302234291

[Editorial Report] Havana Radio Ciudad de La Habana in Spanish at 2045 GMT on 23 February resumes its live coverage of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) Provincial Assembly in Havana City Province, after a two-hour lunch recess.

As the transmission opens two announcers review the work of the morning session, noting that a great deal of attention was given to the food plan. They state that the work was significant, in-depth, and in the revolutionary spirit.

At 2055 GMT the announcers rejoin the conference, which Jorge Lezcano, first secretary of the Havana City Province PCC, has already called to order. Fidel Castro is in attendance. Lezcano opens the floor to delegates who have requested the opportunity to speak. Comrade Palmero reports on the work done by workers at an agricultural project. He touches on the building of huts,

work in the fields, and the work of volunteers, particularly youth, from the city. Some of these volunteers cut cane and some gather cane. He notes that the work of the Young Communists transformed their project into a "workers' paradise." Mention is made of the availability of fans, radios, new dormitories, and other advances. He says the youth work with "great enthusiasm." Productivity has been increased. He notes there are "schools in the fields" where education and training work is carried out. Additional crops have been planted because of the young peoples' great spirit.

Another comrade is recognized who notes the important work of the volunteers, people who knew little about agriculture at first. This comrade works on a project of 22 caballerias mainly with plantains. He pledges that they will do their best work.

At 2112 GMT Castro asks the delegate several questions about the volunteer work on his project. He asks how many workers there are on the project, how many are married, how many have finished school, how many of their youth have done their military service, where the volunteers have come from, etc. At 2115 GMT a female delegate offers comments on her project, the people there, and their volunteers, essentially answering all the questions that Fidel had posed to the previous delegate. She also notes that there is political work in her project, which is very important. Fidel suggests that some of the political work could be done at lunch time, in the evening, or on Sunday afternoon. She agrees. He suggests that by pursuing the positive they will eliminate the negative. Castro and another delegate discuss the tractors on their project. Castro jokes about different pieces of equipment. They discuss onions, tomatoes, cleaning the fields, the work of the youth, propaganda work, and the work of educators and agricultural experts.

At 2130 GMT Castro speaks with a delegate on crop selection, rotation, and the use of fertilizers. At 2137 GMT Castro asks the delegate precisely what problems they have. The delegate responds that the main problem is distribution. Castro immediately asks him to break down the amounts of caballerias in his project by crop. They pursue that line of discussion. Other delegates get involved in discussing crop health, resistance, durability, maturation time, problems with weeds, and the use of fertilizer.

At 2150 GMT a delegate begins a report on his project expressing great support for Fidel, the party, and the revolution. He notes that he and his comrades work with great spirit, overcoming challenges in the field. He notes the comrades are always ready to do more. He pledges that they will continue in that spirit.

At 2205 GMT a delegate reports the number of volunteers mobilized by his group, saying that they have showed a "vanguard spirit" in their quantity and quality.

At 2220 GMT a delegate notes that work in agriculture is one of the most concrete ways to contribute to the work of the special period. He says that if anyone wants to fight against the Yankees and imperialism the work on the food plan is one of the best ways to do it. There is general agreement.

At 2224 GMT Castro begins to speak again, touching upon the sugar harvest, mechanization, micro-jet irrigation, potato production, plantain crops, flies, developing agricultural projects, housing for field workers, and beef production. At 2240 GMT he passes the floor to a delegate to discuss his work. Among other things, this delegate notes the importance of involving the people in agricultural work. He says that the 15 days that many people spend in the fields as volunteers have great political value.

At 2250 GMT Castro renews his comments focusing on the importance of completing preparations for upcoming seasons, noting that early preparations help get a jump on droughts, plagues, and other challenges. He discusses the preferable quintal per caballeria output of different crops. At 2305 GMT he starts speaking with various delegates about their output and experiences. Fidel asks how many like yucca. Many do. He asks how many like plantains. Many do. Castro notes the exportation of potatoes and the importance of the earnings for Cuba. At 2320 GMT he talks with a delegate about their tomato production, weight, blight, etc. They also discuss red onions and potatoes. They discuss the per month production goals for delivery to the city of Havana.

At 2332 GMT Jorge Lezcano interrupts and calls for the evening recess. The delegates agree and the session takes a 30-minute break to meet again at 0000 GMT.

Evening Session Continues

FL2402015791

[Editorial Report] Havana Radio Ciudad de La Habana in Spanish at 2355 GMT on 23 February resumes its live coverage of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) Provincial Assembly in Havana City Province, after a 30-minute recess.

As the transmission opens two announcers review the work of the afternoon session. At 0000 GMT the announcers rejoin the conference, which Jorge Lezcano, first secretary of the Havana City Province PCC Committee, calls to order. Fidel Castro is in attendance. Lezcano notes that the food plan has been discussed amply, profoundly and that the help of Comrade Fidel has been invaluable. He notes that the TV viewers and radio listeners have learned a great deal and have seen the dedication, quality, and seriousness with which the communists approach their work. He congratulates the delegates for their work.

Lezcano asks they move on from the discussion of the food plan to the election of the provincial party committee. With the election of the committee they can end today and recess until tomorrow, when they will discuss the program for the development of new technologies in pharmaceutical drugs.

At 0005 GMT Lezcano passes the floor to "Comrade Abelardo," Central Committee member, and steps down from the podium, noting that at the conclusion of the vote they will stand adjourned until the morning. Comrade Abelardo explains that the provincial party committee has been working on the selection of new candidates for over one year. He says that "no rigid guidelines have been applied regarding representation of geographical sectors, sex, race, or other factors." The candidates have been selected on the basis of representation of labor. He notes that the candidates have been selected after a difficult and exhausting process and that they all possess all the necessary requirements for candidacy. The basis for candidate selection was submitted to the Secretariat of the Central Committee and other party bodies. Of those on the candidate list 51 percent are directly involved in production of goods or services. "Of those 19 percent are workers." The average age of the candidates is 41.7 years. "Ninety-six point eight percent have a level of education of middle school or high school." The principal sectors of the provincial economy are represented. "The list is composed of 96 candidates, that is 20 percent more than the definite number of the members who should be on the provincial central committee, which is 80 members. This is so you can select those who you consider have the greatest qualifications and possibilities." He notes that the Central Committee which has, with this conference, ended its term had 121 members. The number that is proposed is fewer, according to the recommendations of the Fourth PCC Congress, in order to allow for more efficient functioning. "The president of the nominating committee will explain afterwards the way in which it is proposed you vote, but I want to point out to you the fact that the putting in practise of more democratic alternatives, such as this type of election, requires of you a greater depth and responsibility in the act of voting."

At 0015 GMT he begins reading the names of the candidates, asking that they stand as he reads their names. They include teachers, workers, doctors, nurses, and factory employees. When he reads the name of Jorge Lezcano, current committee first secretary, there is prolonged applause. At 0026 GMT he finishes reading the list. He then asks for comments. There are none. There is applause. He calls for a vote. The candidates list is approved.

At 0027 GMT he passes the floor to the comrade chairwoman of the nominating committee to explain the voting method. After greeting the delegates she says that it is time to proceed to the election of the provincial committee. There is some confusion in the hall with a lot of noise and no one speaking into the microphone. A comrade then is heard to say: "That is good. Let us recess then." Without announcement the conference recesses at 0028, until 1400 GMT on 24 February.

24 Feb Morning Session

FL2402173591

[Editorial Report] Havana Radio Ciudad de La Habana in Spanish at 1355 GMT on 24 February begins live coverage of the second session of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) Provincial Assembly in Havana City Province.

Transmission begins with two announcers reviewing the work of the first session, noting that it was one of the most open session ever. At 1457 GMT they announce that Cuban President Fidel Castro; Jorge Lezcano, first secretary of the PCC in Havana City Province; and other Central Committee members are arriving at the assembly hall. At 1400 GMT moderator Jorge Lezcano opens the second session by welcoming professional construction cadres and introducing delegate who informs the assembly of the results of the provincial committee elections. At 1405 GMT she begins reading the names of those elected and asks them to stand. There is a prolonged applause when she finishes.

At 1409 GMT Lezcano introduces construction delegate Eugenic Noreira, Micons [Ministry of Construction] provincial director, who talks about the development program of pharmaceutical and biotechnology sector which has many centers in Havana City Province. At 1425 GMT Fidel Castro begins to chat with the delegate about the importance of responding to human needs. He says that the "organization of contingents has been a factor of great importance." He adds that this movement has raised the morale of the construction sector and improved the sector because prior to this there was great indiscipline and considerable theft because there was no control on construction material.

At 1453 GMT Lezcano introduces the director of the Cuban vaccine center. After explaining the importance of cooperation among all sectors, there is an exchange with Castro on the development of the Cuban meningitis vaccine, vaccine production, and vaccination campaigns.

Then Lezcano introduces several delegates from the scientific research centers who mention that discipline is a key factor in achieving national development. After each delegate, Castro expands on the history of various scientific fields in Cuba. He adds that the development of this field is not only important for the health sector but to the nation's economy because it is an important source of resources.

At 1635 GMT Lezcano calls a 30-minute recess and announces that the session will resume promptly at 1705 GMT.

Morning Session Continues

FL2402200291

[Editorial Report] Havana Radio Ciudad de la Habana in Spanish at 1704 GMT on 24 February resumes live

coverage of the second session of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) Provincial Assembly in Havana City Province, after a 30 minute recess.

At 1705 GMT Lezcano introduces the director of the immunology center, Jose Fernandez Rivera, who reviews the background history of the institute and notes the importance of Castro's guidance in developing Cuban scientific institutions. He expresses his agreement with other delegates in that discipline and cooperation among different national sectors is a key factor in the development of Cuban scientific secter. At 1720 GMT Castro chats with a delegate on different programs carried out by the institute regarding congential, endocrinological, and immunological illnesses.

At 1726 GMT Lezcano introduces Hilda Molina, director of the neurological center. She notes that this center has achieved large dimensions and says this sector is striving to achieve cures to neurological illnesses.

At 1739 GMT Lezcano introduces director of the ophtalmological research center who expands on works and achievements in this sector. At 1754 GMT Castro praises Dr. Pelaez' work and dedication. He expands on achievements in this sector. Immediately afterterward he expresses his wholehearted support for the sector and adds that Pelaez' work has given "great prestige" to Cuba. He also extends this praise to the entire Cuban scientific community and at 1813 GMT he confirms that Cuba will now start research on an "anti-dengue fever vaccine." He says that because science offers a vast field for development, Cuba can become a power by exploiting the medicine industry field. He states that through the cooperation of the many national sectors Cuba can also develop the health sector.

At 1822 GMT Lezcano introduces a delegate of a company in charge of medical equipment. He mentions that cooperation is essential during the special period.

At 1830 GMT Castro instructs Lezcano that representatives from other sectors should also be allowed to brief the assembly on their activities.

At 1830 GMT a delegate from a Havana Province scientific center says that Cuba has achieved scientific development at all levels thanks to the socialist revolution. She is immediately followed by a delegate from the tropical medicine institute who briefs the assembly on activities of this center. At 1844 GMT Castro stresses that cooperation among scientific sectors is "imperative."

At 1846 GMT a delegate from the sugarcane research center also notes the importance of cooperation among different sectors to achieve goals, and adds that through different research being carried out in this area, sugarcane will always be the main promoter of Cuban development. At 1852 GMT a delegate from the public health sector states that Cuban science has always been willing to help people throughout the world. The assembly applauds when he praises Cuban internationalists in Iraq. Later he expands on the work being carried out in Cuba to help the children from Chernobyl. He says that so far a total of 3,872 Soviet children from three different Soviet republics have been treated in Cuba. He says that what has been achieved with these children proves how wrong the detractors of this program were. He concludes his statement by reading a letter sent by a child from Chernobyl's parent who thanks Cuba and Castro for their support in helping these children and his child in particular.

At 1910 GMT Lezcano says that based on a suggestion, he motions the assembly to issue a recognition for Cuban doctors in Iraq. Lezcano announces that this motion has been approved by the majority and that there were no abstentions.

He then informs the recently elected members of the provincial committee that they will hold a meeting after the recess to elect the members of the provincial bureau.

At 1911 GMT Lezcano announces a two-hour recess and adds that the assembly will reconvene at 1610 GMT.

24 Feb Evening Session

FL2402232891

[Editorial Report] Havana Radio Ciudad de La Habana in Spanish at 2110 GMT on 24 February begins live coverage of the first afternoon session of the second day of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) Provincial Assembly in Havana City Province.

The transmission opens with two announcers reviewing the work of the morning session, which focused on scientific research. They say that the discussions were highly informative, very interesting, and of scientific and political value. They note that during the two-hour break the new provincial Cnertal Committee met to elect officers.

At 2121 GMT the announcers rejoin the conference, which Jorge Lezcano, first secretary of the Havana City Province PCC Committee, calls to order. Fidel Castro is in attendance. Lezcano notes that the morning's topic was discussed in great depth, tied to the political aspect, and the conference can now move on to the next topic. He asks if all agree and there is applause. He then notes that the topic of the afternoon is how the workers can contribute to the efforts of the special period.

Lezcano passes the floor to a comrade who says that this is a special opportunity to show the world what Cuba can do. It is time for all to say socialism or death. Fatherland or death. Venceremos! There is prolonged applause. Another comrade speaks, noting that it is time, ideologically speaking, to take the machete in hand and head for the hills, to rally around the revolution.

At 2135 GMT another comrade speaks and Castro talks with him on the topic of bicycles, their manufacture and use. The comrade notes that the people of Havana have always shown great revolutionary spirit and will do

everything they are called upon to do. He says that the people of Havana will prove that now with their use of the bicycle. There is prolonged applause.

At 2145 GMT another comrade, who represents a factory, is granted the floor. He notes that his cooperative is part of the food plan. He says that the comrades in his cooperative have pledged to save gas, tires, and soap. He notes that they have planted plantains and vegetables and are working toward self-sufficiency. He says that they are preparing for even more difficult times. At 2150 GMT another delegate speaks about the efforts in his factory where they work to repair or duplicate spare parts. At 2155 GMT another comrade speaks on his factory's work, which is manufacturing tires for bicycles. He notes that they are trying to show initiative to introduce savings of resources because of the special period.

At 2200 GMT another comrade describes efforts to save wood and other primary resources. He notes that they are planting vegetables around the factory. Castro interrupts to ask what they are planting and if the land is good. The comrade and Castro conduct a dialogue about their plantains and agricultural efforts. At 2210 GMT another comrade is recognized and he says that upon hearing of all the work and efforts of the various comrades he and his comrades extend their heartfelt appreciation and congratulations to all. There is applause. He says that now is an important time to do political work, during the special period. He works with domestic and international tourism and notes that he and his comrades have reduced electrical consumption 8.2 percent. He notes that the greatest savings they have made is in pleasing visitors so that they leave the country happy despite any difficulties. He notes that the work for the Pan-American Games has been very positive and praises Jorge Lezcano's work. He says that all the workers are excited, volunteering with great enthusiasm.

At 2220 GMT another comrade describes his cooperative's efforts to save electricity and gas oil, produce spare parts, and save primary resources. At 2230 GMT another comrade speaks about the work in his unit. Castro asks him about the lunchroom in his unit. At 2235 GMT another comrade reports, saying all the workers in his unit are trying to contribute to the special period, that they have taken the special period call as a slogan of combat. They have instituted a strict control on use of gas and made good savings. Everyone is working more, planting plantains, and instead of doing "more or less" they are doing "more and more." He assures the comrades that they are doing more, thinking more, trying harder. He notes that he and his comrades have great respect and admiration for all the workers, researchers, laborers, and everyone else for all their efforts.

Other comrades speak representing factories, minibrigades, cooperatives, and enterprises and describe efforts to save gas, eliminate use of high-energy demand equipment, plant crops, and develop self-sufficiency.

At 2255 GMT Jorge Lezcano says that he wants to make note of and thank the telephone workers who have done excellent work under difficult circumstances. There is applause. He continues, summing up much of what has been said. He names some specific units and notes their efforts. He says: "We have not mentioned the matter of defense work, and because of the fact that we have not discussed the question of defense no one should imagine to themselves that for us this is not very important. Without defense, there is no revolution. For us, defense has an even greater importance and even more with the experience that we are seeing in the Persian-Arab Gulf. Because of this, every day, we are giving it attention and are working arduously in defense work to prepare ourselves well and to overcome whatever aggression may come against our fatherland."

At 2300 GMT Lezcano notes that a great deal of discussion has been given over the last two days to the matters under consideration in the report of the Central Committee. He asks if the comrades agree to vote now on approving the report. All agree, so he asks for all who approve the report to raise their hands. He then calls for any who oppose the approval of the report to so indicate. There are none. He notes that the report is approved unanimously and announces a 30-minute recess. The conference will reconvene at 2330 GMT.

Evening Session Continues

FL2402235891

[Editorial Report] Havana Radio Ciudad de La Habana in Spanish at 2330 GMT on 24 February begins live coverage of the second afternoon session of the second day of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) Provincial Assembly in Havana City Province.

The transmission opens with two announcers reviewing the work of the afternoon session, which focused on a discussions of efforts during the special period. They note that the discussions brought out significant efforts at energy savings, self-sufficiency, political work, and working with revolutionary spirit.

At 2340 GMT the announcers rejoin the conference; Jorge Lezcano and Fidel Castro are seen entering the conference hall. Lezcano gives the floor to Central Committee member Abelardo Alvarez, who announces that Jorge Lezcano has been elected provincial Central Committee first secretary. There is prolonged applause. He goes on to read the names of the province Executive Bureau who were elected by secret ballot in the afternoon. There is prolonged applause after all the names are read and the comrades come to the front of the conference hall.

Lezcano then speaks, noting that directing the work in the province is an extremely great responsibility. He notes that this is a special opportunity and moment. It is a special period for socialism and the fatherland. He thanks the conference for the honor and he promises to

work to fulfill the duties given him by the commander in chief and leadership of the party.

At 2345 GMT he passes the floor to a comrade who asked to speak. She says that this is an historic moment for Cuba. She says that she has brought a special message from the Pioneers of the province. The message sends special greetings to Comrade Lezcano and all the delegates and pledges the best efforts of the Pioneers during the special period. After reading the message she passes copies to Lezcano and Fidel.

At 2353 GMT Lezcano says: "This is the moment we have all awaited. The conclusion of the conference with Comrade Fidel." There is extended applause. Castro starts speaking at 2354 GMT.

Roa Kouri Notes UN's Inability To Ensure Peace

FL2502232291 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2033 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Foreign Vice Minister Raul Roa Kouri, chairman of the Cuban delegation to the United Nations, affirmed today that the United Nations should immediately halt the Gulf war or it will become totally discredited. In his speech to the UN's 47th Human Rights Commission, Raul Roa Kouri said the United Nations would be totally discredited because it would demonstrate this organization's inability to ensure world peace.

Soviet President Gennadiy Yanayev [title as heard], said that in spite of the progress of the allied forces' ground attack, the USSR will not reduce its political and diplomatic efforts to find a solution to the crisis. Among the major concerns stemming from the conflict, Yanayev cited as particularly worrisome to the USSR the war's grave environmental consequences in light of its proximity to the Soviet borders.

Diplomatic Sources Cited on Peace Initiatives

FL2602231091 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2034 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] United Nations diplomatic sources have informed the press that Cuba and other nonaligned countries are promoting peace initiatives at the United Nations. According to reliable sources, the proposal to reach an agreement is based on the necessity to declare a cease-fire in order to find a peaceful resolution to the conflict and to stop the bloodshed and destruction in that part of the world.

The proposal essentially urges Iraq to fulfill its decision to totally and unconditionally withdraw its forces from Kuwait within a timetable that is yet to be established and also demands the immediate halt of hostilities. The proposal also requests that United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar send a team to the region to supervise and monitor the evacuation of the military units and the end of the military operations.

Commentary Views Dissolution of Warsaw Pact

FL2602165591 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 26 Feb 91

["Nuestra Opinion" commentary by Ariel Larramendi]

[Text] Good morning. Because of the huge amount of information or disinformation on the Gulf war, a report from Budapest, Hungary, has gone unnoticed.

The protocol eliminating the Warsaw Pact military agreements, and the dissolution of its military organizations and structures as of 31 March, was signed a few hours ago in Budapest. The meeting of the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee at the foreign and defense ministers level administered a deadly blow to something that was already nonexistent. The Warsaw Pact, which has now been eliminated through agreements, was extinguished with the bankruptcy of the so-called socialist sector and the disappearance of the old GDR.

The Warsaw Pact was established on 14 May 1955 as a European collective security mechanism. Its original members were the Soviet Union, the GDR, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Hungary. Its objective and duties were to consolidate efforts to safeguard peace in Europe.

As established in the second clause of its constituent act, in truth, the Warsaw Pact was created as a result of agreements that established NATO. The NATO bloc advocated the contention of communism even through military means. It did not hide its intentions to undermine the emerging socialist sector.

Chronologically speaking, all agreements that the United States has sponsored and participated in throughout the world—except in Africa, where they are nonexistent—were created before the Warsaw Pact. Washington's pretexts for organizing these military blocs, some of which have already disappeared, were based on arguments such as the defense of the Western world, and Western civilization through military plans; or the protection and defense of the principles of the UN charter.

The real objectives of the international military organizations created by the United States and its partners [preceding word in English] were to exploit human and natural resources, to safeguard domination and dependence, and to protect its actions as policemen of the world.

We would like to mention some significant aspects of a few military pacts. In the so-called Association of Southeast Asian Nations [ASEAN], a so-called Asian bloc, only three of its eight members are Asian countries.

The Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty, or Rio Treaty, signed by Latin American countries and the United States in 1947, deserves a special mention. This treaty was tested during the Malvinas war, when the United States, which advocated and defended the treaty,

turned its back [on Latin America] and supported its NATO partner, Great Britain.

The fact is that the Warsaw Pact military structures must disappear on 1 April. Although this is in keeping with the objective processes the world is currently experiencing, particularly Eastern Europe, we must note that its European counterpart, NATO, has not been eliminated, and from what we know, the thought of it is is not even mentioned in Europe.

Escalona Satisfied With Visit to Soviet Union

FL2702025291 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Juan Escalona, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government said in Moscow today that his visit to the Soviet Union has been satisfying because it has confirmed the close ties that exist between the two countries.

During a news conference, Escalona affirmed that the will to expeditiously carry out the bilateral agreements established last December had been present throughout the talks he held with Soviet leaders.

American Coalition Delegation Arrives in Havana

PA2602034791 Havana International Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] A large group of Cubans who reside in the United States has arrived in Havana to visit relatives and promote communication and understanding between authorities and compatriots from the island.

The group, consisting of 35 people, belongs to the so-called Cuban-American Coalition, which promotes better relations and nonconfrontation with the revolutionary government.

Delegation chief Carlos Sanchez said that the coalition represents, in fact, an alternative to the so-called Cuban-American Foundation led by Jorge Mas Canosa, which is an ultraconservative organization seeking the overthrow of the Cuban authorities and the reinstatement of capitalism in the country.

Commerce President Reviews Mixed Enterprises

PA2402194491 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] The private sector's chances in Cuba are impossible, Chamber of Commerce President Julio Garcia Olivera told our station. Nevertheless, he explained that the possibility of creating mixed enterprises might work in some sectors, but not in all of them. He said that Cuba is acting serenely and making the necessary decisions concerning the grave problems which afflict the international economy. Garcia said that, as a political factor, the revolution's achievements cannot be set back after the production sector is turned over to the people.

The president of the Cuban Chamber of Commerce emphasized that there is great interest in the creation of these mixed associations, particularly in the tourism and industry sectors. He added that there are already lists of proposals which do not limit or exclude other projects, including the sugar by-products industry.

Garcia Olivera emphasized that the promotion of mixed enterprises is one of the Chamber of Commerce's tasks, because it helps increase our industry's production capability and offers the alternative of meeting our obligations through compensation payments.

Military Instruction Year Opens With Ceremonies

FL2502190191 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] The new military instruction year opened yesterday in the country. Our reporters from Villa Clara, Havana, and Cienfuegos will give us more details.

The new year for combat readiness has begun in Villa Clara with staunch patriotic and revolutionary fervor. The ceremony was headed by Tomas Cardenas Garcia, Villa Clara Province first secretary, and Urbelino Betancourt Cruz, general staff first deputy chief, both of whom are members of the Central Committee.

Caibarien was the site of the main ceremony, in view of its capacity as best municipal district in the Central Army to carry out naval activities. The ceremony included an exhibit of means of production and defense, most of the equipment for which was manufactured with local resources in view of the special period.

The need to maintain combat readiness even during the special period is a commitment of Havana residents this year. Defense and production, and the territorial militia troops, carried out exercises and training to guarantee their ranking in the different military fields.

Work still continues in the reforestation program, particularly in the energy forest [bosques energeticos] being created in Havana Province.

On occasion of the first defense day of the year, Cienfuegos residents assessed the work carried out in 1990 and this year's activities. Among the measures adopted in Cienfuegos to promote more productive defense days is the completion of training in half the number of days required.

Antigua and Barbuda

Finance Minister Submits Resignation to Premier

FL2302195091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1346 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, Feb 22, CANA—Antigua and Barbuda's Finance Minister John St. Luce, submitted his

resignation to Prime Minister Vere Bird SNR [Senior]. Friday, well placed sources told the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY (CANA).

St. Luce had threatened to resign by the end of last year if the government was not restructured to deal with the pressing economic situation facing the country. He also wanted the prime minister to address a split in the Antigua Labour Party stemming from who should be Bird's successor and charges of corruption in government.

The finance minister had read the contents of a proposed resignation at a meeting of his St. John's City East constituency last Tuesday night and announced that he would be making his final deicision by [the]weekend. St. Luce would not comment on reports of his resignation, but it is expected that an announcement on the issue is to be made by the government.

V. Bird Assumes Finance Post

FL2702000591 Bridgetown CANA in English 2321 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, Feb 26, CANA—Antigua and Barbuda's prime minister, Vere Bird Sr., has taken over the finance portfolio following the resignation of John St. Luce. A statement released by Government House—official residence of Governor General Sir Wilfred Jacobs—announced the elderly leader was taking charge of the Finance Ministry.

Government House confirmed St. Luce "by writing under his hand addressed to his excellency the governor-general, resigned from the office of minister with effect from the 25th day of February, 1991." St. Luce, who submitted his letter of resignation last Friday, had publicly complained about the government's response to economic problems in countries doing business with Antigua and about a persisting in-fighting in the ruling party.

He had called for a streamlining of government ministries from 11 to nine and for the prime minister to address the party's leadership struggle. St. Luce says he is prepared to become a backbencher in Parliament.

Lester Bird To Head Delegation to Caricom Summit

FL2602013091 Bridgetown CANA in English 2237 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, Feb 25, CANA—Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird is leading Antigua and Barbuda's delegation to the regional economic conference being held in Trinidad and Tobago this week, the government announced. Bird, who is also the country's minister of foreign affairs and economic development, will be accompanied by Hugh Marshall, minister of trade, industry and, commerce; and junior minister within the Ministry of Economic Development Henderson Simon.

The ministers will have the services of an adviser in the Ministry of Economic Development. Representatives from the trade unions, private sector organisation, and non-governmental organisations will also form part of the country's delegation.

The ministers were expected to leave here Monday evening for Port of Spain after wrapping up a one-day meeting of the national consultative group, while the other representatives are due to travel Tuesday.

Dominica

Opposition Accused of Blocking Unity Efforts

FL2702151691 Bridgetown CANA in English 1244 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Feb 27, CANA—Dominica's external affairs minister, Brian Alleyne, has complained that opposition parties seem to be "playing games" with plans by the Windward Islands governments for a political union.

"So far they have been appearing to be playing games, to be using strategies to avoid confronting the issues of unity," Alleyne told CANA.

He said with many of the opposition parties' demands relating to the working of a broad-based Regional Constituent Assembly [RCA] met [as received], the Standing Conference of Popular Democratic Parties of the Eastern Caribbean (SCOPE) and its affiliates should shed their doubts and "come fully on board the unity train.

"They have been spoken with by the governments and by the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States secretariat, and a number of concessions were made at the first meeting of the RCA," the minister recalled. He said that an agreement signed by the Windwards governments was also paving the way for legal status to the Constituent Assembly—one of the demands of the opposition parties.

"I hope that they will participate fully in the next meeting of the RCA, because...by witholding their participation, they're depriving their constituents of representation and [of] having their views heard," Alleyne said.

"There's really no excuse for them not to participate, and I sincerely hope that they will," he added. The Assembly was set up to pave the way for the establishment of the political union, involving Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent.

Dominican Republic

Balaguer Asks To Be Replaced as Party President

FL2502173491 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] President Joaquin Balaguer has informed Christian Social Reformist Party [PRSC] members that he will leave his post as president of the PRSC executive Central Committee. He also requested party members to appoint someone to replace him.

He explained that the new PRSC president must be chosen by an assembly that will express the will of all PRSC members throughout the country. Joaquin Balaguer added that he will continue to grant the PRSC as much attention as his presidential duties allow him.

President Joaquin Balaguer announced his intention to leave the PRSC presidency in (Carabacoa). In addition, the chief of state advised party members to freely appoint a party president.

Balaguer, who is the PRSC founder, leader, and ideologist, made this suggestion to PRSC members through a letter he sent to those attending a seminar sponsored by the Christian Democratic Organization [OPCA]. In the message, read by Joaquin Ricardo, Balaguer suggests that the current PRSC leadership cadres should be renewed in abiding by the statutes in force.

Haiti

FNCD Reacts to Panpra Withdrawal From ANDP

FL2602211591 Port-au-Prince LE NOUVELLISTE in French No. 34010 25 Feb 91 pp 1, 8

[From the "Stirs of the News" column by Roger Milcent: "FNCD Reacts"—quotation marks as published]

[Text] The National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD] does not recognize the National Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti [Panpra] within the Haitian Parliament because the elected members of this political party presented themselves under the banner of the National Alliance for Democracy and Progress [ANDP].

This is what Senator Turneb Delpe, an FNCD spokesman, told LE NOUVELLISTE yesterday. Delpe thinks that "it is not very honest" for Panpra to dissociate itself from the alliance formed with the Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti [MIDH, headed by former presidential candidate Marc Louis Bazin] and the National Patriotic Movement of 28 November [MNP-28, headed by Senator Dejean Belizaire].

Delpe pointed out that the FNCD will not join the "Socialist Democratic" bloc which Panpra proposed forming within the National Assembly. The Front proposes the idea of a "Nationalistic Democratic" political bloc.

ONA, CAMEP Directors 'Temporarily' Fired

FL2602215091 Port-au-Prince LE NOUVELLISTE in French No. 34010 25 Feb 91 pp 1, 8

[From the "Stirs of the News" column by Roger Milcent: "The ONA and CAMEP Directors Temporarily Relieved of Duty"]

[Text] Radio Metropole has announced that the Minister of Social Affairs Ernst Verdieu has temporarily relieved Robert Simon of his duties as director of the Pensioners' National Insurance Office [ONA]. This decision was made after the employees of this office went on strike asking for the dismissal of this official. Meanwhile, the supervising minister is leading an investigation into the reasons why General Director Simon was discredited.

The same decision has been made at the Metropolitan Autonomous Central Potable Water [CAMEP], where the employees asked for the dismissal of the general director, Engineer Gehy, and 21 other officials.

Jamaica

Country Meets IMF Criteria; Eligible for Loans

FL2302200091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1810 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 23, CANA—Jamaica is eligible for more than U.S. 56 million dollars in loans from the International Monetary Fund [IMF] as a result of passing the Washington-based institution's December performance test, JAMPRESS, the state news agency here reported.

JAMPRESS on Friday said the IMF confirmed that Jamaica had met all eight performance criteria for December 1990, some with significant margins.

The performance criteria reviewed were the net international reserves, the net domestic assets, the ceilings for gross, net and short-term borrowing, overall public sector borrowing, central government/Bank of Jamaica borrowing and external arrears.

The ratification of Jamaica's performance came the end of the IMF board meeting in Washington which also approved Jamaica's application for access to the oil element of the fund's compensatory and contingency financing facility.

This approval was in part based on the need to finance higher oil related import costs by Jamaica during the second half of the fiscal year 1991-92 and to maintain a reasonable growth in bank credit to support private sector activity, JAMPRESS said.

The IMF has also assessed as satisfactory, the progress of Jamaica's policy implementation, noting that this was in line with programme objectives for the economy.

Consequently, Jamaica is now eligible to draw down 20 million Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) or U.S. 28.7 million dollars and 30.5 million SDRs or U.S. 42.7 million dollars under the oil facility. Of this amount, 19.8 million SDRs (U.S. 27.7 million dollars) or 65 percent will be disbursed immediately.

In addition to its ratification of the special performance criteria, the IMF board also favourably assessed the functioning of the foreign exchange system and the adequacy of the monetary and fiscal policy, JAMPRESS reported.

Manley Departs for Venezuela, Caricom Meeting

FL2402145091 Bridgetown CANA in English 2036 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 23, CANA—Jamaica Prime Minister Michael Manley was leaving Saturday [23 February] to visit Venezuela, then Trinidad. In Venezuela, Manley is expected to discuss with President Carlos Andres Perez ways to expand relations between both countries in the areas of trade, investment, economic co-operation, and tourism.

He is also expected to discuss the interest shown by some Venezuelan companies in the island's bauxite sector and in the oil refinery Petrojam [Petroleum Jamaica]. Lagoven, a Venezuelan state company, is said to be interested in buying into Petrojam and there have been queries from Venezuela about Jamaica's plans to open an alumina plant on the island's north coast.

On Monday, Manley will travel to Trinidad and Tobago, to attend the interim meeting of Caribbean Community [Caricom] heads of government on Tuesday and an economic conference on Wednesday. Caricom leaders will review the San Jose Oil Accord that offers Caribbean and Central American states oil from Venezuela on concessional terms, the implications of the Gulf war on Caribbean economies, the Caribbean Stock Exchange, the Common External Tariff, and payments arrangements for Caricom members. Leaders will also discuss the situation in Haiti and Suriname. Manley is the current chairman of Caricom.

St. Lucia

Government 'Expresses Concern' Over Trading Bloc

FL2202133391 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] St. Lucia's government has expressed concern over a decision by Latin American countries to create a trading bloc to break into the European trade market.

St. Lucian Trade Minister George Mallet says the countries have often supported preferential treatment to the African, Caribbean, and Pacific group in selling bananas to Europe. He says he hopes the creation of a trading bloc does not mean that Latin American countries have dropped that support.

Trinidad and Tobago

Opposition Leader Calls For General Election

FL2502235091 Bridgetown CANA in English 2112 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Feb 25, CANA—Patrick Manning, leader of the minority opposition People's National Movement (PNM), called Monday for the holding of general elections.

"The current (political) situation is one that is best handled by an early election," Manning told reporters amid mounting unrest by teachers and other public sector workers over monies owed by the government.

"... We consider the political situation pretty unstable and we are not quite sure about the stability of the government led by Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson," Manning added.

The PNM formed the government for 30 years up to December 1986 when it was toppled by the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) in a landslide general election win. Manning, a former energy minister, predicted general elections before Christmas.

"We are catering for an election well before that," he said, noting the PNM had started screening candidates in preparation. Manning said the PNM had also formed two committees to help its preparation for returning to government. He said an economic committee headed by parliamentarian Kenneth Valley was working on a three-year plan to pull the country out of the current economic decline. Another led by former Industry Minister Wendell Mottley was identifying areas for job creation.

General elections are constitutionally due by March next year.

Costa Rica

Tax Information Treaty With U.S. Ratified

PA2502145191 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1634 GMT 20 Feb 91

[Text] San Jose, 20 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The Costa Rican Government has ratified an agreement to exchange fiscal information with the United States. Through this agreement, Costa Rica may have access to a minimum of $100 million for investments out of $8 billion available in that fund. President Rafael Angel Calderon and U.S. Charge d'Affaires Robert Homme ratified the Tax Information Exchange Treaty today.

The agreement will allow the United States and Costa Rica to share fiscal information in order to prevent the introduction of stolen money or tax evasion, Homme reported.

Costa Rica will be able to receive investments from the "9-36 Fund," which receives profits generated by U.S. companies headquartered in Puerto Rico. These investments may be reinvested tax free in Barbados, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and Costa Rica. The treaty also allows U.S. companies to hold conventions and seminars in Costa Rica and deduct any expenditures incurred from such activities on their tax returns.

The fiscal exchange agreement was signed in 1989 and approved by the Costa Rican Parliament in August 1990, but it had not been implemented because there were doubts about it. Such doubts were, however, cleared by the Foreign Trade Ministry.

El Salvador

FMLN Attacks, Takes Positions in San Salvador

PA2702034191 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0252 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] San Salvador, 26 Feb (NOTIMEX)— The Salvadoran guerrillas have begun a broad military operation in the exclusive northern area of San Salvador city and its surrounding area, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) announced.

In a telephone call to a local radio station, the FMLN said that at approximately 2000, urban guerrillas began to attack military positions.

Several explosions were heard tonight in the Lomas Verdes, Escalon, and San Benito residential areas, and the surrounding areas, but this information has not been confirmed by official sources.

According to the rebels, the urban guerrillas are occupying positions in the Escalon residential area, near the official residence of President Alfredo Cristiani.

Meanwhile, spokesmen for the electricity company confirmed that several power pylons were downed by the guerrillas, and this has resulted in a blackout throughout a large sector of the capital city.

Red Cross Official Comments

PA2702040991 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0327 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Report by unidentified radio announcer—live]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Fighting is currently taking place in Acajutla, Sonsonate Department, where there are military bases, an official source has reported.

It is now 2127, and we are contacting the headquarters of the Salvadoran Red Cross to talk to Carlos Lopez Mendoza. Good evening, Carlos, go ahead.

[Lopez Mendoza] Good evening, listeners of YSKL. From the very first calls that our units received, they immediately went to the Escalon residential area in San Salvador, specifically in the area of El Mirador, Francisco Gaviria, Republica de Alemania, and Jose Marti Streets.

So far, we have been unable to get through, and therefore we have only been able to help one person who has bullet wounds. Her name is Liliana de Urrutia, and she is 42 years old. Our personnel rescued her on Republica de Alemania Street.

We repeat, we are unable to get through the area. Our units are in the area, trying to help anyone who may be hurt. We have received several calls that there are wounded persons in that area. However, we are unable to get through. Mrs. Urrutia will be taken to a hospital. This is the preliminary report from the Red Cross. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Where is the shooting taking place?

[Lopez Mendoza] I hear the shooting has quieted down, however, we heard some heavier shooting earlier.

[Announcer] Thank you, Carlos Lopez Mendoza.

Retired Colonel's Son Kidnapped

PA2702042991 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0354 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Report by special reporter Raul Beltran Bonilla from the Escalon residential area in San Salvador—live]

[Text] We have now been able to enter the area of the Panamericana School at the end of Mirador Street in the Escalon residential area of San Salvador. One of the Salvadoran Red Cross teams has been able to enter the area where the rebels are advancing. We are close to the Salvadoran Army units.

The situation is difficult, and it is very difficult to get through. We hear M-79 grenades exploding very close to us. We also see flares lighting up the area. Salvadoran Air

Force reconnaissance aircraft are flying over the area, trying to determine the exact positions of the rebels.

We also want to state that, according to unofficial reports, a group of youths who were going to visit some friends were stopped by the rebels. One young man, Gerardo Pena, who is the son of a retired army colonel, was among them. He and his friends were stopped by a group of armed men who identified themselves as FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] members. The rebels forced them to park their vehicles across El Mirador Street in order to use them as barricades, and asked the boys for their identification papers.

The youths said the rebels took young Gerardo Pena as a hostage. This happened at about 2020 in El Mirador Street, according to the youths who were accompanying him at the time the armed action began in Escalon residential area.

The civilians are asking to be evacuated. Many have left their residences and are headed to safer locations in downtown San Salvador. The shooting and heavy explosions continue in the area.

We now conclude this report, as there will soon be a national network. We see that the Red Cross and the Green Cross have evacuated some people from the area.

Government Issues Communique

PA2702044691 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0420 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Government "Communique No. 1"—read by unidentified official]

[Text] Concerning the events that have taken place tonight in the northwestern area of San Salvador, the government of the Republic hereby announces the following:

1. At 2000, terrorist groups of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] began a new attack against the civilian population, attacking from the edge of the San Salvador volcano into some streets in the northwestern part of the Escalon residential area and Lomas Verdes.

2. With this terrorist action, the FMLN has jeopardized the lives of many families. Unfortunately, there are reports that some persons have been wounded, including some women, and that several hostages are being held.

3. In fulfilling its constitutional duties, the government of the Republic has adopted the necessary measures in order to reestablish order and thus reject the enemies of peace. Therefore, the government urges the citizenry to remain calm. The government of the Republic will be reporting on the events, and asks that the Salvadoran people ignore rumors or false reports.

Good night.

Refinery, Pylons Attacked

PA2702050191 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0408 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] San Salvador, 26 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Salvadoran rebels today attacked the only oil refinery in the country, as they launched a large-scale military operation in the capital and its outskirts. At least one person is dead and seven are wounded as a result of this operation.

Official sources confirmed to NOTIMEX that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) attacked the La Raza Refinery, located in the Sonosonate Department, 85 km west of the capital, on the Port of Acajutla. The source did not report on the damage inflicted on the refinery, where all the oil that enters the country is kept.

The FMLN reported tonight, through a telephone call made to a local radio station, that at 2000 [0200 GMT] urban guerrillas began an attack on military positions in the capital. Unofficial sources indicated that at least one civilian is dead and seven others are wounded after an hour and a half of heavy fighting between the guerrillas and the Army.

Two hours into the guerrilla operation, mortar fire could still be heard but rifle fire was becoming increasingly sporadic.

In addition, the northern area of San Salvador was still without energy.

Energy company spokesmen confirmed that several energy pylons were knocked down by the guerrillas.

Acccording to military sources, troops from Military Detachment Number 5, the National Police, and the 1st Infantry Brigade controlled the situation. Until 2200 [0400 GMT] nobody had confirmed whether the guerrillas had left the neighborhods of Escalon and Lomas Verdes, located in the northern sector of San Salvador.

FMLN Provides Rationale

PA2702051891 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0441 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Telephone statement by "a spokesman" of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN—recorded]

[Text] This is a member of the FMLN speaking right now from the Escalon residential area to report that about one hour and 15 minutes ago, FMLN guerrillas attacked the Escalon neighborhood.

The purpose of this attack is not to obstruct the elections, even though we do not endorse these elections, as conditions are not proper for holding these elections within a democratic framework. However, we want to say this action is a defensive response to the various counterinsurgency operations by the anti-democratic army against our territories throughout the nation.

Right now, a possible cease-fire is being discussed at the negotiating table. To this effect, the Army and Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance], that is the government, are trying to deny the truth. The truth is that the FMLN controls several territories.

Another purpose of the attack in the Escalon residential area is to tell the local residents, the economically powerful groups, that they can greatly influence the political decisions of the current government so that this administration and the Armed Forces will adopt more constructive stands at the negotiating table to solve the various problems of El Salvador and thus put an end to the war.

We want to reiterate that the path of a politically negotiated solution is the viable path for resolving the armed conflict. We do not seek at all to harm the residents of the area.

FMLN Said Holding Positions

PA2702053191 Paris AFP in Spanish 0507 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] San Salvador, 26 Feb (AFP)—The guerrillas are holding their positions in the northwestern part of San Salvador and fighting with the army continues, two hours after a rebel operation began against the residential areas of Lomas Verdes, La Campestre, and Escalon, journalists who have entered the area have observed.

A rebel leader, interviewed by reporters who arrived with the Red Cross at the site of combat, stated that the urban guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) continue to fight in the three abovementioned residential sectors and their surrounding areas. This contradicts military reports to the effect that the army controls the situation.

When asked about the number of rebels involved in the attack, he said that "there are between 11 and 15 units, each having various numbers of fighters."

The rebel spokesman added that there is one dead soldier in Lomas Verdes. Heavy explosions and rifle fire continue to be heard in the area.

Situation 'Under Control'

PA2702062591 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0525 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Interview with special reporter Raul Beltran from the Escalon residential area in San Salvador by unidentified announcer—live]

[Text] [Beltran] Although we still hear shooting in the area, it is not as heavy now as it was, after three hours and 25 minutes of fighting, or since 2000. There are rebels hiding in some residences along Republica de Alemania Street, as well as in the area of El Mirador, close to the Panamerican School [two-second break in transmission]. They are hiding in some private residences [two-second break in transmission] while army units remain in the area.

I repeat: I only hea. some rifle fire at this time [four-second break in transmission], and that is what we have to close our newscast. The situation is under control. Salvadoran Army reinforcements have arrived on site. [Four-second break in reception] that are in this area. There are still many journalists in the area.

A total of 35 civilians have been evacuated from this area close to the drinking water tanks in the Masferrer Circle. That is what we have to report at this time. There have not been any changes in the last two hours.

[Announcer] We have heard reports that tw vehicles were set on fire and that two soldiers were killed in Mirador Street. There are all sorts of rumors circulating.

[Beltran] Right now, the shooting has intensified. Army units are not authorizing anyone to enter the western side of the Panamerican School. We only heard about two vehicles being used as barricades, and that young Gerardo Pena, son of a retired army officer, was kidnapped.

We have not been able to go beyond a certain point. It is impossible to enter four or five streets where there is heavy fighting and crossfire. The Red Cross and Green Cross people have had difficulties entering the area because the Army does not allow anyone in. It is very dangerous for the rescue teams, as well as the reporters who are in the area.

We have not heard about any vehicles being set on fire. An officer who is nearby told us the army has casualties, but he did not specify any numbers. [Three-second break in reception]

The rebels have sustained heavy casualties according to an army lieutenant. [seven-second break in reception]

[Announcer] Sorry, we are having some technical difficulties.

Rebels Promise To Destroy Air Force Aircraft

PA2602180791 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] We remind you that at 0300 yesterday 24 February urban commandoes of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front fired 18 81mm mortar rounds on the Salvadoran Air Force. Nine of the rounds hit the hangars where the A-37 and the [O-2] push and pull airplanes are located.

Several military garrisons have been attacked by our commando forces of the National Army For Democracy in less than one week, including the anti-democratic Army's staff headquarters, the CITFA [Armed forces Telecommunications Training Center], and the Air Force installations in Comalapa Airport—a military air

base that is used to protect the airplanes which are used to massacre the civilian population in the cities and the rural zones of the country.

Hysteria, panic, and terror have seized the colonels and generals who see that the militarization of the capital, San Salvador, is useless becaue our urban commandoes evade all the security measures adopted by the military high command.

We have already issued the warning: The aircraft of death delivered by the North Americans will be destroyed on land or on the air. Yesterday we fully proved that we will continue to defeat them and to destroy the aircraft that have mercilessly bombarded the civilian population for 10 years.

Rebel Commander Cleared in U.S. Soldiers' Death

PA2402181591 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 21 Feb 91 p 3

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front has given Commander "Dominguez" complete freedom, Maria Julia Hernandez, director of the Legal Assistance Office for the San Salvador Archbishopric, has said in a statement before the 8th criminal judge. She noted "Dominguez" was exonerated of guilt in the murder of two U.S. servicemen that was perpetrated by two other guerrillas—namely, "Porfirio" and "Aparicio"—whom she met at a camp in Perquin, Morazan Department.

Hernandez gave a sworn statement in San Salvador at the request of Chinameca's lower court judge, who wanted to know what Hernandez had discussed with the rebels accused of the crime and who confessed to the crime. Hernandez told the court she went to Perquin in the company of Father Miguel Francisco Estrada. From there, they walked to the guerrilla camp. Once there, they met with the guerrillas "Porfirio" and "Aparicio," who are directly involved in the incident, as well as with two women and one man who are indirectly involved.

She said "Porfirio" and "Aparicio," whose real names she did not learn, admitted their participation in the murders and exonerated Commander "Dominguez" of any wrongdoing. According to Hernandez, she was told that the person leading the guerrilla group that downed the helicopter with the U.S. servicemen aboard was not "Dominguez" but "Aparicio," who had told "Porfirio" to kill the survivors if they were in great pain, as is the practice among guerrillas.

The deposition stated that the guerrillas told Hernandez that Commander "Dominguez" was involved in getting transportation to carry the survivors and giving them medical attention. The testimony added that after "Porfirio" received his orders he thought that if the servicemen were not seriously wounded he would let them live, but would kill them if they were near death, which he ultimately did. Hernandez stated that the accused guerrillas move about freely in the guerrilla camp but are under surveillance, and that it is not known whether or not they had been tried by the guerrillas. She added that "Dominguez" was completely free.

Urban Commandos Attack Army Headquarters

PA2402145491 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] Urban commandos of the Modesto Ramirez Central Front today shook the El Zapote garrison in San Salvador by outwitting the security and the militarization of the capital imposed by Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] party members and the La Tandona [1966 graduating class of the Captain General Gerardo Barrios Military Academy] generals.

We will now broadcast the war report we have received directly from the capital.

At 0900 hours on 22 February, urban commandos of the Modesto Ramirez Front tricked security at the El Zapote garrison and the Presidential House and installed a demolition charge. The charge, 125 lbs of TNT, was activated by a device fabricated by our own comrades.

This new and audacious operation, which was carried out only seven meters from the garrisons' entrance, yielded the following results: destruction of the warehouses of the Armed Forces Telecommunications Training Center (CITFA), as well as the administrative offices of the military command; destruction of large amounts of media, technical equipment, and physical installations; and at least 10 casualties, including dead and wounded, inflicted on the dictatorship's army.

This successful urban operation was called "Everyone defeat the impunity of the fascist and Arena commands."

After the mission was completed, the urban commandos of the Modesto Ramirez Central Front withdrew without any problems.

Rebel Radio Comments on U.S. Helicopter Crash

PA2602201491 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] More U.S. advisers could continue to routinely die if the U.S. Government remains bent on closing the doors to the conflict's negotiated solution. Today, another five U.S. military advisers died in El Salvador when their machine of war crashed into the waters of Lake Ilopango. The missions in El Salvador of the contingent of more than 100 U.S. officers—a number that exceeds U.S. congressional authorization—are not social assistance missions or help to those rendered homeless by earthquakes, but routine war activity.

President George Bush, following Ronald Reagan's policies, continues, by inertia, to send to the suspect and murderous Salvadoran Army large amounts of logistical

supplies and many military advisers. The Salvadoran Army may not have won the U.S.-sponsored war, but it is well-trained in murder and terror.

The recent accident involving a U.S. military helicopter shows up on the Pentagon's computerized controls as child's play when compared to the Persian Gulf war. Meanwhile, another five U.S. citizens have lost their lives without just cause, far from their homes, believing that Central America is a natural U.S. backyard. The U.S. Congress and the U.S. Administration should reflect on this. U.S. fatality statistics, for various reasons and in different parts of the world, have been increasing over the long and disappointing past 10 years of ineffective and mistaken policy toward El Salvador, which has shown no sign of success.

Now when our country seeks political agreement on a concerted effort toward a cease-fire, the persistent U.S. military presence in El Salvador makes this national task more difficult and the U.S. foreign policy toward this area less reasonable. If the U.S. leaders opted for being a positive factor for peace and not a factor of war, we are sure that the five U.S. advisers would not have been victims of their own government policies.

U.S. Servicemen's Bodies Still Not Found

PA2602193891 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1209 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] The bodies of the five U.S. servicemen who perished in El Salvador when their helicopter crashed in Lake Ilopango still have not been found, according to military sources. The helicopter was traveling near a military base in this capital when it crashed. Salvadoran Army divers have been searching for the victims who up to now have not been identified. The helicopter crashed on 25 February after it took off the Ilopnago Military Base, 9 km east of San Salvador. The crash took place after the crew had reported mechanical difficulties.

A military source said that the accident took place in Lake Ilopango's northeastern part and that the aircraft fell into the deep waters, making the rescue of the bodies difficult. A U.S. Embassy spokesman said that the U.S. servicemen were stationed at the Palmerola Military Base in Honduras and had come to El Salvador on a routine mission, involving studies and inventories. After completing the mission, they were returning to the neighboring nation. Now eight U.S. servicemen have died in El Salvador this year. Three died on 2 January, when the rebels downed the helicopter in which they were traveling. The eight U.S. servicemen were stationed at the Palmerola Military Base, in Honduras, where 1,200 U.S. soldiers are stationed.

Guatemala

Police Defuse Bomb Near Japanese Diplomat's Home

PA2502220691 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2110 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 25 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan police experts defused a bomb which had been placed by unknown persons in front of the home of Japanese Ambassador Sumio Ono, which is located in the southern part of this capital, the police reported today.

The police authorities said the bomb had several numbers marked on it and that they did not know the origin of the bomb or the reason why it was left.

On 21 February a high-powered bomb exploded in the British Embassy causing considerable damage. No one was injured.

Minister Denies Increased Guerrilla Activity

PA2602140891 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0345 GMT 20 Feb 91

[Text] Defense Minister General Luis Enrique Mendoza Garcia has denied that rebel military activity has increased in Guatemala in 1991, as some local observers claim.

Meanwhile, President Jorge Serrano Elias has stated that peace is progressing in Guatemala, although he has admitted that new talks with the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, URNG, have not been scheduled.

Serrano Elias has also announced the appointment of the following government representatives to the National Reconciliation Commission: Vice President Gustavo Adolfo Espina Salguera; Amilcar Burgos, the president's adviser for specific affairs; and Ernesto Viteri Echeverria, the president's legal adviser.

On another matter, Gen. Mendoza Garcia stated on 19 February that the Army is disciplining military authorities who force youths to register in the military, however, Mendoza Garcia did not specify what type of discipline is being imposed or identify the individuals involved.

[Begin recording] [Mendoza Garcia] The laws of the Republic specify that citizens have the responsibility to perform military service. Perhaps there have been violations in the various stages of recruitment on an individual level, but not an institutional level.

[Reporter] Will those involved in recruitment violations be punished according to the law?

[Mendoza Garcia] In the Army all illegal actions are punished.

[Reporter] How many were punished?

[Mendoza Garcia] Right now I cannot give you names, but several persons have been subject to disciplinary and legal action for having committed violations and others are being investigated. [end recording]

Honduras

Romania Fosters Bilateral Trade Relations

PA2602141591 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1605 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 23 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Official sources reported today that Honduras will export 4,000 tons of sugar to Romania in the near future as part of the government's efforts to broaden bilateral trade relations.

The transaction was made with a Romanian delegation—headed by Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade Dan Floru—that is currently visiting Honduras. The delegation has met with government officials and business leaders.

In addition to sugar, Honduras is interested in placing other agricultural products, such as coffee, banana, citric fruits, and other nontraditional goods, in the Romanian market.

The Romanian delegation arrived in Tegucigalpa, the Honduran capital, as part of a Central American tour to promote commercial ties and to make known the political, social, and economic situation in that country.

Nicaragua

Save Democracy Movement Views Bermudez Slaying

PA2502224391 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1130 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Communique issued by the Let's Save Democracy Civic Movement (MCSD) read by National Opposition Unity (UNO) Deputy Humberto Castilla; place and date not given]

[Text] Communique No. 8

The MCSD held an assembly on 21 February 1991 to support Nemesio Perez, mayor of San Dionisio, Matagalpa Department. The MCSD Executive Committee resolved to:

1) Strongly condemn the assassination of Engineer Bermudez, the indisputable leader of the peasant population organized within the Nicaraguan Resistance.

2) State that this is part of a plan to destroy our young democracy.

3) Demand that the government order the appropriate authorities to conduct a thorough and honest investigation and to make the results public as soon as possible.

Executive Committee, MCSD.

Former Contra Leader Now Ambassador to Chile

PA2702011991 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2155 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Managua, 26 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—A Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry spokesman announced today that Roberto Ferrey, a former member of the directorate of the disbanded anti-Sandinist contras, has been appointed Nicaraguan ambassador to Chile.

The source stated that the Chilean Government notified the Nicaraguan Government today of its approval of the appointment.

Ferrey arrived in Managua prior to Violeta Chamorro's 25 February 1990 electoral victory and accepted the amnesty offered by the Sandinist government.

After his arrival in Managua, Ferrey temporarily held the post of director of the Nicaraguan Repatriation Institute, in charge of dealing with the demobilized contras.

EPS General Staff Member Examines FSLN

PA2502161291 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 22 Feb 91 p 3

[Article by Dora Maria Tellez Sandinist People's Army (EPS) General Staff member]

[Text] As a Sandinist militant, I fully share the virtues and vices of the only party I have belonged to. The virtues of Sandinism are a national legacy and are only too familiar to friends and enemies alike. Nevertheless, in view of the FSLN's [Sandinist National Liberation Front] electoral defeat, its current situation, and the future, it is the Sandinists' inescapable duty to acknowledge their mistakes.

The Sandinists' present condition demands self-criticism of the party and each of its members. To take pride in our mistakes is the worst favor we could do for Sandinism. Self-criticism that allows us to keep making the same mistakes is a double-standard and is equivalent to fostering the FSLN's liquidation. I do not want to do either. I understand self-criticism as a way to advance toward rectification in practical terms. This is what the FSLN's rank and file is demanding. Therefore, this is what we must do as militants with a certain degree of responsibility.

1. The defense of the people's and national interests demands that the FSLN be sufficiently strong. The FSLN is the only Nicaraguan political party that can guarantee these interests. It would be useless to make loud statements in favor of the poor and the workers if we fail to turn the FMLN into a suitable instrument for the struggle in favor of these interests.

2. The FSLN should present to the nation and people a political platform that matches its aspirations and reflects the improvement and progress that the Nicaraguan people desire and the country needs. The idea is not just to disparage our political adversaries. This is easy and obvious enough. It is no secret that the current government represents the interests of the bourgeosie and the rich. It is no secret either that the government lacks social sensitivity. All of these things are clear enough for anyone. Sandinists cannot spend their lives crying out to heaven about the known evils perpetrated by current government officials. We should present

feasible and satisfactory short-, medium-, and long-term alternatives to the Nicaraguan people.

3. If we Sandinists want to represent popular and national interests, we cannot be a sect that speaks by itself but a political party that is closely linked to the popular sectors and a party that can represent the aspirations of the majority and win everyone's support. To this end, we must adjust our party, change whatever is necessary, and remove any obstacles that might prevent us from shaping the party with an eye on the future and its struggles. Our party should not be merely a remembrance of the past.

4. The FSLN should strengthen its principles and learn how to defend them in these times. We should identify our current tasks to fight imperialism. Old slogans and tasks must be replaced by new ones. In his own time, Sandino identified them correctly. He fought the U.S. intervention until the last Yankee soldier left. However, he realized that, although the military expression of intervention had passed, political and economic domination still remained.

Sandino would not have been himself if he had not understood that; if the situation changed, his political stance had to change. This realization cost him his life. But this was the challenge, and he rose to meet it. History and photographs are witnesses to this. To advance, today's Sandinists must answer the same questions. What shape has the U.S. intervention assumed in our country at present? How will we combat this intervention? What does the defense of national sovereignty consist of? How will we give impetus to this defense?

5. The FSLN must change. We Sandinists must change, reinforce virtues, and correct our mistakes. For historical reasons and needs, the FSLN was organized as a centralized and upright party. At a point in our history, this type of organization started to harm us and alienate us from the people. We recognized this in 1985 (there are documents to prove it) and corrected it. We have now pinpointed it. We should act without delay.

The democratization of the FSLN is not a catchphrase to be used for an electoral campaign; it is an urgent reality. We, the FSLN leaders and cadres, cannot continue to be the absolute owners of the party. To rectify this, we must change the situation. The rest of the FSLN members want to take over the party; this is correct and necessary. It is demagogic to call for change but to maintain the status quo.

In my opinion, the democratization of the FSLN requires that a political debate at all levels be opened. This debate is not to be used to let out steam but to improve the situation. A debate requires that we learn to listen to each other and take each other's opinions into account without categorizing them as first or second class opinions; we must truly respect the opinion of the majority. Only if we learn to listen to each other will we be able to relearn how to listen to the people.

The democratization of the FSLN is not an exercise to be done on paper. It is an action that is necessary to regain the support of the majority of the people, who are the real power, and to recover the government, which is the instrument of that real power.

The FSLN's democratization requires that its leaders at all levels be elected. We cannot go to a congress with responsibility and without deceit and want it to ratify all of us in our posts. The congress will elect the FSLN national leaders; it has the power to decide on the number of leaders, their qualifications, their names, and their decision-making responsibilities. Any active Sandinist can apply for any position in the FSLN. To rectify is to understand that this is required. Those comrades who say yes to elections but carefully clarify that it is a mortal sin for any Sandinist to even think of a change and that anybody who runs for candidate is a terrible sinner who must be severely punished are demagogues.

6. The FSLN's most valuable legacy has been its political and moral authority. It is not our job to account for other people's doings. We cannot account for those who acted only to gain material benefits for themselves. Rather, we have to clearly draw the line that separates them from the FSLN. Many members demand that the Ethics Commission be more aggressive. But the Ethics Commission is not the only one that has to be more aggressive. We all must be more aggressive. I believe this is the way to correct the defects of complacency and of being too tolerant.

7. The FSLN's material assets have been a topic of many debates. It is certainly necessary to separate the Sandinist assets from the personal belongings of any Sandinist. It is also necessary for an organization to guard the assets, ensure that they are correctly and efficiently administered, render periodic accounts, and be subject to controls.

8. Sandinist unity is vital. We all agree on this. I believe that the slander and insults campaigns, the "you are either with me or against me" positions, the veiled threats, the manipulative actions, the attempts to silence discussions on topics that do not want to be heard, the insults, and the attempts to sow suspicion about everything and of everybody, are actions and positions that can only bring about the division of the Sandinists.

These are my opinions. To present them clearly at meetings with members and with leadership groups has unleashed attacks against me.

I believe it is necessary to clarify that I have not presented my candidacy for any national FSLN post. The active FSLN members must choose their candidates. Last-minute campaigns or counter-campaigns will not yield miracles. At this stage of the game, the FSLN members should have enough sense to know what we do and do not want.

I am certainly convinced of the need to correct errors, both those in the Sandinist organization and those that I have made as a Sandinist. I am not attempting to appear saintly all of a sudden. To do so would mean that I have a double standard and I have tried to have only one. I have tried to preach only what I am capable of doing.

what I do, and what I try to do. Demagoguery is to preach what cannot be supported with deeds and to propose actions that cannot be accomplished.

Because some doubts about my Sandinist militancy have also been expressed, I must present my record as a combatant, as a professional FSLN member, as a former official of our government, and as a deputy. My record shows that my actions have been out in the open for all to see. My accounts are clear and in order for whoever wants to check them.

Panama

Former Attorney General Villalaz Returned to Jail

PA2502180191 Panama City EL SIGLO DOMINICAL in Spanish 24 Feb 91 pp 2, 27

[Report by Yali Enrique Pitti]

[Text] Former Attorney General Carlos Augusto Villalaz returned to prison Friday night because of the constant pressure exerted by various organized groups, which—after learning of the house arrest granted to the former collaborator of dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega—demanded that the decision to grant him "house arrest" be revoked.

The house arrest granted to former Attorney General Villalaz was announced on Wednesday, 20 February, after prosecutors Argentina Barrera and Danilo Montenegro—along with First Court Judge Guillermmo Salazar—took steps to release the former attorney general from prison.

EL SIGLO learned that the 2d Court of Justice revoked the decision made by 4th District Attorney, which granted house arrest to former Attorney General Carlos Augusto Villalaz so that he could return to Modelo Prison.

The return of Carlos Augusto Villalaz to Modelo prison last Friday night was due to a "motion" [incidente de controversia] presented by lawyer Diogenes Arosemena, who represents the relatives of the victim in the Giroldi case, which allowed the 2d Court of Justice to order the return to prison of the former Noriegist attorney general.

EL SIGLO also learned that the granting of house arrest to former Attorney General Carlos Augusto Villalaz caused the indignation of the public to the point that various organized groups began calling for the immediate reorganization of the Attorney General's Office and measures to clean up the judicial branch.

Following the protests against the house arrest granted to former Attorney General Villalaz, the 2d Court of Justice ordered the dismissal of lawyer Guillermo Salazar, 1st Criminal Court judge of the 1st Judicial Circuit, for being directly responsible for the resolution that granted the "house arrest" to the former Noriegist attorney general.

As the public is well aware, former Attorney General Carlos Augusto Villalaz is facing several charges for the alleged violation of human rights and alleged cover-up of the murder of Major Moises Giroldi. He is involved in the loss of documents on the Piscis Operation on the laundering of drug trafficking money and he also faces another charge in connection with an alleged violation of freedom of expression.

New Pro-Democracy Movement's Formation Announced

PA2302202291 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 21 Feb 91 p 38

[Text] More than 100 Panamanians who share an unrequited desire for democracy and justice filled the conference room of the Executive Hotel on the night of 19 February. The people discussed national issues up to midnight, and they decided to form the Pro-Participatory Democracy Movement [Movimiento Pro Democracia Participativa]. The movement is immediately going to organize activities in the country to explain the national situation to the people and get them to join the struggle for true change, to counter corruption, and to work for justice. This change is to be attained through any legally available political action, including the possibility of calling a constituent assembly. The movement's Panama Province Directorate is formed by the following people: Arrigo Guardia, Samuel Gutierrez, Rodrigo Miranda, Miguel Antonio Bernal, Mayin Correa, and Jaime Padilla Beliz. The following people were elected to be members of the directorate's work commission: Arrigo Guardia, Anibal Villarreal, Manuel Garcia Almengor, Ramon Mendoza, and others.

Narcotics Traffickers Escape Flamenco Prison

PA2602205591 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 23 Feb 91 p 20B

[Text] Two Colombian drug traffickers linked to Medellin cartel kingpin Pablo Escobar Gaviria fled the "maximum security" jail in Flamenco Prison early yesterday morning, after cutting away their cell's steel door with a metal saw.

Jose Fuentes Melendez and Narciso Gomez Carrillo, who had been arrested in September at the port of Mariano (Veraguas) when they tried to smuggle in 275 kg of cocaine, fled by land from the prison, which is located on the banks of the canal.

Three other traffickers tried to flee with Fuentes and Gomez, including Julio Cesar Canate and Luis Henaos, a member of the Cali cartel branch in Panama, but they were recaptured.

It was initially feared that Colombian citizen Alberto Enrique Torres, who is considered Pablo Escobar Gaviria's representative in our country and who has been offering large amounts of money to bribe the authorities, was among those who escaped.

The authorities have launched an investigation to determine if their escape was the result of the prison guards' complicity, or simple negligence.

Former National Police Commander Eduardo Herrera managed to escape from Flamenco Prison in December, when he was rescued by a privately owned helicopter.

Argentina

Defense Minister Departs for Persian Gulf

PY2602212191 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2035 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Feb (TELAM)—Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez left at 1815 today for the Persian Gulf, where he will install the new commander of the Argentine vessels which are part of the multinational coalition forces. He will also meet the crew.

Gonzalez left the Ezeiza International Airport on board an Argentine Airlines commercial flight. He will stopover in Paris, where he will meet with members of the exiled Kuwaiti Government.

IDB Loan for State Reform, Public Works

PY2502233891 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 24 Feb 91 p 5

[Text] (DYN-NA)—Argentina is due to receive some 1.2 billion dollars from the InterAmerican Development Bank (IDB) during the course of this year, the Bank's President Enrique Iglesias announced yesterday.

The bulk of the funds will be devoted to state reform, and to a variety of public works projects, particularly in the energy sphere.

—A credit line of 200 million dollars is due to be agreed this year for the restructuring of provincial administrations.

—Some 160 million dollars will go to financing energy companies also in the provinces.

—A loan of 100 million dollars will be granted for the construction of a drinking water and sewage system in the interior of the country.

All these credits are due to be handed over during the first six months of the year.

The first meeting to discuss the disbursement of the funds is scheduled for the 27th of this month.

During the second half of the year loans worth 600 million dollars are due to be extended. Of the total, 300 million will go to financing economic reform, and a similar figure will be used to pay for the restructuring of the energy firms SEGBA [Greater Buenos Aires Electrical Services], Agua y Energia and Hidronor. It was also suggested that the unfinished Yacyreta dam will benefit from IDB money.

Another 50 million dollars is aimed at Argentina's small firms, and 100 million will go to cleaning up Rio Reconquista, seen as crucial for the residents of Buenos Aires.

Iglesias made the announcements after meeting with Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo and Planning Secretary Vittorio Orsi. He insisted that the International Monetary Fund's decision to withhold the last disbursement of its stand-by loan because of Argentina's failure targets, did not affect the IDB talks.

Iglesias stressed that "Argentina is up to date in its payments to the IDB."

Conflicts Among President Menem's Staff Detailed

PY2602140491 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 24 Feb 91 p 3

[From the "Politics & Labour" column by Michael Soltys: "Bauza, the Last of Menem's Mohicans"]

[Excerpts] There was no report of President Carlos Menem going to a monastery this weekend but he certainly has plenty to meditate. Menem's credibility is at an all-time low and there is nowhere his popularity could go but up, if at some point he actually managed to do something right. Not only are some opinion polls giving him as little as seven percent but they also show him as commanding less respect than his government, something which has never happened before. [passage omitted]

Menem can only blame himself for this situation. If he was deservedly applauded throughout most of 1989 and 1990 for having the right ideas, he is being deservedly lambasted now for his inability to carry them out.

In fairness to Menem, it should be said that after last week's political blood-letting, he has precious little left of the seedy entourage which has accompanied him since the 1988 primary campaign. Of all the people named as "eminence gris" at various times—for example, Presidential Legal and Technical Secretary Raul Granillo Ocampo, former Public Works Minister Roberto Dromi, trade union leader Luis Barrionuevo, former Tourism Secretary Omar Fassi Lavalle, former presidential chief-of-staff Alberto Kohan, Justice Undersecretary Cesar Arias, etc.—only one survives: presidential chief-of-staff Eduardo Bauza (it should be remembered that Lower House caucus leader Jose Luis Manzano backed Buenos Aires Governor Antonio Cafiero in the primary campaign). But perhaps more significance should be attached to Bauza's survival as an ominous sign of the continuation of court intrigues than to the departures last week of Granillo Ocampo, Arias and ANSSAL [National Health Administration] national health chief Moises Ikonicoff as reasons for hope.

A Sorry Pardon

On the surface Granillo Ocampo and Arias had to go because of the public outrage over presidential pardons for a score of mostly dangerous criminals while Ikonicoff was forced to resign for being arrogant to an Austral airline employee. But there was much more to both scandals than meets the eye.

Thursday's pardons were a body-blow to public confidence in the government, not just because of their inherent stupidity but because neither President Menem nor Education and Justice Minister Antonio Salonia had any idea what appears above their signatures in the Official Gazette. But these pardons were by no means the first time the Menem administration has released ordinary criminals (quite apart from the military junta members and terrorists responsible for mass murder)—thus on January 7, 1990, this newspaper wrote an editorial entitled "Opening the Gates," taking Menem to task for releasing 50 convicted criminals in a New Year's pardon, although the press hardly picked up this topic at all amidst the traumas of the Bonex Plan. The Chacabuco pardons last spring received more publicity, but the suspicion lingers that these pardons are far more frequent that most people think as a facile solution to the problem of crowded prisons. Immediately after the scandal which toppled Granillo Ocampo and Arias, 58 more pardons came to light. And while this did not excite the degree of scandal it deserved, on Monday [18 February] Montonero guerrilla leader Mario Firmenich's pardon was extended by Decree 285 after San Isidro Federal Judge Alberto Piotti had asked Interpol to arrest Firmenich in Brazil.

If there was nothing especially new about these admittedly outrageous pardons, there is reason to suspect that attention was suddenly brought to them in order to oust Arias and Granillo Ocampo, who had made themselves vulnerable earlier this month by the way they publicly took opposite sides on the continuation of National Administrative Investigations Bureau prosecutor Ricardo Molinas—furthermore, Granillo Ocampo has developed into a particularly bad case of decree addiction in recent months to the extent of making his government look authoritarian. On the subject of Molinas and his old job, Granillo Ocampo is still being investigated over the decree favouring the Enron-Westfield project, as is Dromi (who last week turned down the ambassadorship which nobody has yet offered him with any clarity). Judge Jorge Pinzon took over as the new Bureau watchdog even before the correctness of Molinas' ouster by decree has been resolved—Molinas is up for impeachment in Congress on March 6.

As for who swept the carpet under Granillo Ocampo and Arias, such questions are usually answered by finding who gains most. Although Julio Mera Figueroa remains nominally the Interior Minister, the question as to whether Granillo Ocampo or Bauza was the real interior minister has now been answered in the latter's favour. The resignation of Granillo Ocampo and Arias left two posts vacant and three as soon as Treasury Prosecutor Jorge Maiorano was picked as the new presidential and legal technical secretary. A closer look at the three men is interesting. Maiorano was Senator Eduardo Menem's chief political advisor before being treasury prosecutor and can thus be directly linked to the "light blue" troika of Bauza, Manzano and Senator Menem. His replacement in the Treasury is Alberto Garcia Lema, a Renewal Peronist constitutional expert close to Cafiero—this does not make him a "light blue" per se but does mean that he is more open to the Radicals, with whom the "light blues" would like more dialogue. But perhaps the most interesting newcomer is the new Justice Undersecretary, Leon Arslanian, who presided over the Federal Appeals Court trial of the juntas in 1985. He strongly opposed the pardons for the junta, which should help the Menem administration disassociate itself from its disastrous pardon policies now. And his close association with Raul Alfonsin's Radical government should make him an ideal bridgehead for talks with the main opposition party. All three men are politically clean, which should reinforce the more professional and less politically tinged approach to their work of such ministers as Domingo Cavallo (Economy), Rodolfo Diaz (Labour), Avelino Porto (Health), Guido di Tella (Foreign Affairs), and Antonio Salonia (Education). But the crassly political Bauza-Manzano group remains worryingly strong. [passage omitted]

Ikonicoff resigned from ANSSAL just two days after showing up for a weekend flight to Mar del Plata with only 10 minutes to spare. When told he had left it too late, he reportedly asked the Austral employee "Don't you know who I am?" and threatened to have her fired in an irritating example of adding bureaucratic insult to the injury of their dead weight on the country. Nevertheless, Monday's resignation was already the third presented by Ikonicoff in only 19 days in office (almost beating Di Tella's 15 days in the Defence Ministry as a record for brevity).

There were a couple of reasons to think Ikonicoff's transfer from the Planning Secretariat to ANSSAL a good idea—it gave Italo-Argentine businessman Vitorio Orsi a key job while removing Barrionuevo from ANSSAL at a time he was under fire for corruption. But as Barrionuevo's presumed ally, Ikonicoff never came to terms with his predecessor—he fell between two stools by vainly trying to shake off the Barrionuevo label and in the process antagonizing the ANSSAL board, which remains intact to this day. In addition, Porto was making it quite clear that he would take no nonsense from ANSSAL authorities, whether Barrionuevo or Ikonicoff. [passage omitted]

Brazil

President Collor Supports Peace Force in Gulf

PY2702014691 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] President Collor de Mello met today with EEC ambassadors and said that Brazil is ready to join a peace force in the Persian Gulf area.

Presidential spokesman Claudio Humberto Rosa e Silva said President Collor's lunch today with the EEC ambassadors was positive and informal because the president

said he felt as if he was in his own house, alluding to a fact that all the ambassadors already know. [sentence as heard]

Rosa e Silva also said the president recalled the historical roots linking Brazil with the European continent. He also referred to the Persian Gulf crisis and the international order to be established after the conflict. He pointed out that Brazil is ready to take part in a peace force in the region.

The president commented on the Brazilian situation and the foreign debt. He praised the political sector's maturity with respect to the actions that are being carried out so the country can face its problems, especially the economic ones.

This was the fourth meeting between President Collor and the EEC ambassadors. The first one was held at the German Embassy during the presidential campaign. After his election, President Collor met with the EEC ambassadors at the Portuguese and Spanish Embassies.

Collor Invited To Make Official Visit to U.S.

PY2302005491 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] U.S. President George Bush today invited Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello to make an official visit to Washington this June. According to Brazilian Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek, the Brazilian president's visit to the United States is politically significant because it will serve to disprove the idea that the Persian Gulf crisis has caused some friction in relations between the two countries.

During his visit, President Collor will discuss the Brazilian foreign debt issue with President Bush. Another subject included on the two presidents' agenda is President Bush's initiative to create a free trade system among American countries that will also involve investments and talks on the foreign debt issue.

Multinationals Criticize Economic Situation

PY2402000491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2313 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] Brasilia, 22 Feb (EFE)—In a document made public today, multinational companies criticized Brazil for being a rather unreliable partner for making investments and the country's 1988 Constitution as "statist and nationalist."

"It is impossible to be a member of the First World while pursuing Third World policies," states the document, which was prepared by the administrative council of multinational companies. The statement will be given to Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello on 26 February by foreign businessmen working in Brazil.

According to the document, investments in Brazil yield minimal results because not only are construction and material costs high, but their quality is low and deliveries are delayed. In addition, state interventionism controls prices.

Despite the fact that salaries are among the lowest in Latin America, according to the multinational company managers, entrepreneurial activities are made more costly by taxation.

With a population of 153 million people, Brazil has the potential to be a great market, but low consumption caused by poor income distribution and one of the world's lowest levels of education make it one of the worst in the world, the document from the multinational companies states.

The document also notes that Brazil does not have a dominant political party in Congress capable of putting the power to make drastic economic changes in the hands of the nation's president.

The foreign businessmen also criticize the lack of protection for property rights in advanced technology sectors and the slow negotiation of the $121-billion foreign debt, one of the world's largest.

In recent weeks Brazilian businessmen themselves have severely criticized the government's economic policy and have asked for interest rate reductions, price deregulation, and the reduction of indirect taxes on staple food items.

On 31 January the Brazilian Government began to implement the Collor-2 Plan for economic stabilization, freezing prices and salaries and setting new rules for the financial market.

* Congressional Vote, Relations With Collor Seen

91SM0193A Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 27 Jan 91 pp 12-14

[Text]

Majority Support for Parliamentary Government

Brasilia—The new Congress must struggle to establish the parliamentary system of government in the country, preferably before 1993, according to the results of a poll conducted by O GLOBO among deputies and senators elected to the legislature that will open on 15 February. Approval of the parliamentary system was the item receiving the most support from the members of Congress we interviewed: 68 percent (246 deputies and 30 senators) called themselves parliamentarians, while only 23 percent (84 deputies and 10 senators) said they opposed that system of government.

Parliamentarians are the majority in the main parties, examples being the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party]—in this party, which has parliamentary government as one of its planks, only one interviewee, Deputy Oswaldo Stecca of Sao Paulo, said he favored a presidential form of government—the PMDB [Brazilian

Democratic Movement Party], the PFL [Liberal Front Party], the PRN [National Reconstruction Party], and even the PT [Workers Party] and the PDT [Democratic Workers Party], both of which showed a strong presidentialist streak at the Constituent Assembly. Of the 30 deputies making up the PDT bloc, for example, 16 are in favor of the parliamentary system, while 10 oppose it and four chose not to answer the question.

Should Brazil Adopt the Parliamentary System?

Answer	Percent
Yes	68.4
No	23.3
No position	7.6
No answer	0.4

In the next legislature, the full National Congress will include a large majority of congressmen in support of the parliamentary system, judging from the responses from those polled by O GLOBO.

It is also quite probable that along with the parliamentary system, the new Congress will approve the introduction of the district majority vote system, which is also massively supported by most of the deputies and senators (67 percent). And the great majority in that group (56 percent) prefers a mixed district vote—in which the distribution of seats is a combination of the current system and one based on candidates elected by district—and reject the pure district system.

A significant number of parliamentary supporters are in favor of moving up the date of the plebiscite on the system of government (48 percent), compared to 30 percent who want to wait until the scheduled date (in September 1993). That plebiscite is to precede the constitutional revision scheduled for October 1993.

The parliamentary option influenced the responses given by several parliamentary supporters to other questions. The current president of the Senate, Nelson Carneiro, who is a well-known parliamentarian, wrote on his questionnaire that he would support a proposed constitutional amendment permitting the reelection of the president of the republic—but only if a parliamentary form of government were introduced.

Our question concerning reelection was worded in theoretical terms, with no specific reference to President Collor or Senator Ney Maranhao's amendment on that subject, but current circumstances seem to have influenced a number of congressmen. Although the majority opposes reelection in general (56 percent are against it)—a position expressed in both the PMDB and the PFL blocs—only seven members of President Collor's PRN said they opposed it, while 22 were in favor of it. The PFL leader in the Senate and probable future government leader, Senator Marco Maciel, was one of those choosing not to answer the question. And Cesar Maia of the PDT said he favored reelection, thus joining the 33 percent of his fellow congressmen who support that change in the Constitution.

Should the Plebiscite on the Form of Government Be Moved up?

Answer	Percent
Yes	48.6
No	30.5
Not yet decided	16.6
No position	2.7
No answer	1.4

About half the congressmen we polled said they were in favor of moving up the date of the plebiscite on changing the form of government. According to the Constitution, that plebiscite will not be held until 1993.

Most Favor Keeping Petroleum Monopoly

Brasilia—The government's intention to eliminate the monopoly on petroleum exploitation—part of the liberalizing policy which President Collor wants to establish in his administration—will not have the support of Congress if the administration actually tries to change that constitutional provision. No fewer than 64 percent of the deputies and senators polled are in favor of retaining the monopoly, while 25 percent are opposed. If it persists in its plan, the administration may have the support of minority groups of congressmen within the PFL, the PMDB, and the PRN.

The administration recently reinforced its proposal to fiddle with the petroleum monopoly through statements made by the chairman of Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation], Eduardo Teixeira, as soon as the latter took office. The reactions were negative, and it is unlikely that the administration will win support in the new Congress for moving ahead with a campaign to carry out its proposal.

Should the Petroleum Monopoly Be Retained?

Answer	Percent
Yes	64.5
No	25.3
No position	7.4
No answer	1.2

Most of the new congressmen we polled advocate keeping the Petrobras petroleum monopoly. The group opposing the monopoly adds up to 25 percent, while 7.4 do not have a position on the matter.

The opening up of the domestic market to imports, which is one of the Collor administration's liberalizing theses, is supported by a significant majority in the National Congress. Even in such left-wing parties as the PT, the president may find allies for the new reduction in import tariffs that is almost ready in the economic area. But the privatization policy does not find the same good reception, although this does not mean that the congressmen favor nationalization.

Should Imports Be Liberalized?

Answer	Percent
Yes	65.7
No	23.3
Indifferent	1.4
No position	5.4
No answer	3.9

The deregulation of imports by the federal government has the support of 265 congressmen, while only 94 are opposed. Of those polled, six are indifferent, 22 have no position, and 16 did not answer.

Since the administration's privatization policy has not yet produced any practical results despite being approved on the strength of the Collor Plan, the congressmen are being cautious and prefer to examine the policy. This can be shown by the fact that the great majority of congressmen answering the question (61 percent) said they were only partly in favor of the Collor administration's privatization policy. That is far higher than the percentage of deputies and senators saying they are completely in favor of the policy (26 percent).

That leads to the conclusion that in order to neutralize the centers of resistance to the privatization of government enterprises, the administration will have to take more rigorous action with the new Congress that is taking office this week. Congressmen in the PFL and the PRN, which had just formalized the first bloc of support for the administration in the Chamber of Deputies, backed the stand taken by the PMDB's members: more than two-thirds of the PMDB's 101 congressmen who were polled are only partly in favor of privatization. Half of the PT's 31 congressmen share that attitude.

Should Government Enterprises Be Privatized?

Answer	Percent
Completely in favor	26.7
Partly in favor	61.1
Opposed	8.6
No position	1.2
No answer	2.2

A significant percentage of the congressmen are completely in favor of privatizing government enterprises. But the majority is only partly in favor. And the total number of congressmen opposed is less than 10 percent.

Deputy Aloysio Mercadante (PT, Sao Paulo), who is beginning his first term, has already demonstrated that he will oppose any of those liberalizing proposals by the Collor administration, although he initially supported a few points in the economic program. Partly favoring privatization and taking a stand that is also defended by conservatives, the economist is opposed to the deregulation of imports that has already been started by the administration. Those in favor include Deputy Jose Dirceu, who is also part of the PT's federal bloc. On the question of the way in which the administration is renegotiating the foreign debt, the two PT members agree: they oppose it.

Is the Foreign Debt Being Renegotiated Correctly?

Answer	Percent
Yes	56.8
No	27.5
No position	13.6
No answer	1.9

Of the new members of the future Congress, 220 support the manner in which the Collor administration's economic team has been renegotiating the foreign debt, 111 oppose it, 55 do not have a position, and eight did not answer.

Concerning the foreign debt (Brazil has made no interest payments to date), Minister of Economy Zelia Cardoso de Mello can feel encouraged by the stand taken by the congressmen on her proposal to limit interest payments to our country's ability to convert part of the debt into bonds. The new Congress is showing that it supports that stand, which has already been communicated to the creditors, since 56 percent of the congressmen polled gave their approval. Interestingly, the administration is encountering resistance on the part of two PRN congressmen from Sao Paulo, Fausto Rocha and Etivaldo Vadao.

Lack of Unity the Eternal Problem

Brasilia—Achieving cohesion within the blocs in Congress will continue to be the main challenge facing future party leaders even though 60 percent of the new Congress is newly elected. Congressmen from the same party hold differing views on controversial issues, and that fact will become the chief difficulty for the Collor administration's bloc of support in the Chamber of Deputies (the PRN and the PFL). Congressmen in the two parties do not hold convergent views even on Planalto Palace [the president]. The PRN is more united in support of the Collor administration than is the PFL. PRN congressmen regard Collor's performance as excellent or good. Many in the PFL consider it fair, and Deputy Nan Souza (Maranhao) describes it as very bad. The PFL's members prefer to support the administration conditionally.

Most congressmen in the government bloc want to move up the date of the plebiscite for choosing a system of government. The majority in the PRN is in favor of allowing presidents to be reelected, while the majority in the PFL opposes the idea. Both agree on adoption of the mixed district vote and on a revision of the right to strike for the purpose of controlling the stoppage of essential services in the economy. The PRN even wants to limit the right to strike, a move that so far has little strength in the PFL. The PRN is also in favor of provisional measures, while the PFL opposes them by a small margin (26 votes to 22). Like the PRN, the PFL is divided on the question of retaining the petroleum monopoly. But PFL members tend more strongly to oppose the idea of amending that part of the Constitution.

The PMDB's stands are similar to those of the two main parties supporting Collor in Congress. PMDB members advocate changes in the right to strike so as to control essential services, are in favor of moving up the date of the plebiscite, and oppose reelection of the president and adoption of the mixed district vote. Like the PFL, the PMDB has a majority opposed to provisional measures.

And like the PMDB, the PSDB will continue to waver between conservative and progressive stands. It supports party discipline as an absolute and is predominantly against a revision of the right to strike. Like the PFL, the PDS [Social Democratic Party], and the PRN, the PSDB supports the administration's proposal on renegotiatiation of the foreign debt and deregulation of the import market.

The PT and PDT, which together form the largest group that will engage in systematic opposition to the Collor administration—24 of the congressmen we polled—are promising to unite in some circumstances. The two parties will support the parliamentary form of government but swell the ranks of those opposing an earlier date for the plebiscite. Only two deputies oppose the petroleum monopoly. Both opposition parties are divided, although diffidently, on the question of accepting the administration's proposal concerning the foreign debt. They are opposed to opening up the domestic market to imports and also oppose provisional measures and a revision of the right to strike.

The PTB [Brazilian Labor Party] is in favor of revising the right to strike for the purpose of controlling stoppages in essential sectors of the economy. On one point it agrees with the so-called leftist parties: it opposes provisional measures and supports the petroleum monopoly. A significant group supports the possibility of reelection for the president, and the majority accepts the way in which the foreign debt is being renegotiated. Two other parties close to Planalto Palace—the PDS and the PDC [Christian Democratic Party]—are divided on whether to move up the date of the plebiscite, but they agree in supporting the deregulation of imports and renegotiation of the foreign debt. Both want to revise the right to strike to ensure greater control. A majority in the PDS is in favor of ending the petroleum monopoly (14 to 11). The PL [Liberal Party] and the PRN are in favor of allowing reelection of the president.

Should Party Loyalty Be Absolute or Relative?

Answer	Percent
Absolute	40.6
Relative	50.6
No position	4.9
No answer	3.7

Most of those polled (204) feel that party loyalty should be only relative, while 164 say it should be absolute, 20 have no position, and 15 did not answer.

Concern Over Unlimited Right To Strike

Brasilia—Article 9 of the Constitution, which guarantees workers the unrestricted right to strike, is one of the targets chosen by a significant majority in the new Congress. Amendments to that provision are supported by 57 percent of the deputies and senators, compared to 39 percent who want to leave the article unchanged. Those numbers would be sufficient to get the change approved during the period of constitutional revision, when revisions will require only an absolute majority of congressmen. But supporters of a revision are divided on the direction such a revision should take.

If the constitutional right to strike is brought up for debate by the Congress that will take office next Friday, it will be considered excessively liberal by 46 percent of the deputies and senators. Although the same article which affirms that right also provides that it shall be regulated by a complementary law guaranteeing no interruption in essential services and providing penalties for abuses, 7 percent of the senators would vote to limit the exercise of the right to strike. But the majority are concerned about stoppages in essential activities: 155 members of Congress (141 deputies and 14 senators) intend to vote in favor of mechanisms ensuring greater control over strikes in those services.

An expansion of the right to strike would be supported by a little over 6 percent of the congressmen we polled. Most supporters of such an expansion are in the opposition parties, especially the PT, the PDT, and the two communist parties. Their number includes chiefly those whose base of support is in the union movements, examples being Augusto de Carvalho (PCB [Brazilian Communist Party], Brasilia), who represents bank workers, and Maria Laura (PT, Brasilia), a leader of government employees. But the proposal also has its defenders among members of the parties supporting the government. Some PRN congressmen want to expand the right to strike, one of them being Luciano Pizzato of Parana. The other representatives of President Collor's party would join with the FL, the PDC, the PDS, and the PFL to restrict that right of the workers.

Should the Right To Strike Be Revised?

Answer	Percent
Yes	56.7
No	38.9
No position	4.4
No answer	0.4

What Changes in the Right To Strike Are Needed?

Answer	Percent
More control	38.4
More restrictions	7.4
Fewer restrictions	6.6
No position	4.4
No answer	42.9

Most of the congressmen who will form the new Congress support a constitutional revision of the right to strike. Of those supporting it, 38.9 percent [as published; cf. table] believe the government should have more control on this issue.

Narrow Collor Majority in Chamber of Deputies

President Collor can count on a majority in the Congress that will be installed on 15 February, but according to O GLOBO's poll, it will be a narrow majority, especially in the Chamber of Deputies. Collor will also be faced with a legislative branch requiring a great deal of negotiation. The interplay of congressional forces, with a lack of very clear definitions within the parties, suggests that the administration will have to rely heavily on the policy of talks that is beginning to take shape in the president's meetings with the governors-elect.

Attitudes Toward Administration

Answer	Percent
Support	19.8
Independence	24.1
Moderate opposition	14.3
Systematic opposition	14.8
Critical support	16.1
No position	5.7
No answer	4.9

According to O GLOBO's poll, the administration has the support of about one-fifth of the members of Congress. That group of allies is smaller than the number saying they are independent or in opposition.

Although 24 percent of the deputies and senators claim to be independent, there is not much of a gap between those promising full or critical support and those who are moderate or systematic opponents. Collor wins by a difference of 7 percent.

That fair degree of balance between forces becomes even more obvious in the assessment which old and new members of Congress make of his administration. In all, 31 percent consider the administration's performance "fair." And that group may be the swing vote in Congress. With that group added to the group viewing its performance favorably—calling it "good" or "excellent"—the administration will have plenty of leeway (with support of over 60 percent). But if the group in question joins forces with the declared critics—those calling the administration "bad" or "very bad"—Planalto Palace will be facing an opposition adding up to 60 percent.

The administration takes the optimistic view that if the opposition boils down to the analysis of the federal administration that is made by the largest party—the PMDB—the opposition will always lose. Over 60 percent of the PMDB's congressmen rate the Collor administration "good" or "fair," although only a little over 10 percent actually express their support. The largest group is that made up of independents and moderate opponents. The administration's assured bloc of support is in the PFL and the PRN, which together promise to provide the administration with a majority. Over 70 percent of the PFL and 90 percent of the PRN have declared their support, with a few PFL members promising to keep a critical distance.

Administration's Performance

Opinion	Percent
Excellent	2.2
Good	28.2
Fair	31.2
Bad	16.6
Very bad	10.4
No position	8.6
No answer	0.9

Most of the congressmen we polled feel that the Collor administration's performance has been fair. But a significant group of congressmen feels that Collor is running a good administration.

Should Reelection of the President Be Possible?

Answer	Percent
Yes	33.4
No	56.1
No position	9.4
No answer	0.9

Over half the congressmen included in O GLOBO's poll do not support the presentation of an amendment making it possible for the president of the republic to be reelected for successive terms.

Planalto Palace will have to identify the positions of possible allies and enemies more precisely. For example, Deputy Amaral Netto, leader of the PDS, described himself as an independent and declined to give an opinion of the administration's performance. He is swimming against the tide, since 90 percent of the PDS members polled rated the Collor administration "good" or "excellent." And Senator Mario Covas (PSDB), while joining his party's majority in describing the administration's performance as "fair," nevertheless says that he will engage in systematic opposition against Collor.

Another unknown is the opinion of the PTB. Its leader, Gasthone Righi (Sao Paulo), who once walked arm in arm with the administration, is furious over the mistakes made in the policy on ports and ocean shipping, which is where he gets his ration of votes. He will pursue an independent line with respect to the administration, which he considers to be a poor one. Mendes Botelho is more decisive: the administration is "very bad."

With their newly elected blocs, the PDT and PT will pursue the same policy of systematic opposition, especially since nearly 90 percent of the members of those blocs feel that President Collor is doing a bad or very bad job. The exceptions are represented by a few of their stars. Senator-elect Eduardo Suplicy (PT, Sao Paulo) talks about moderate opposition to a fairly good administration. Deputy Cesar Maia of the PDT says he is going to choose an independent line. What he thinks of the administration is a secret. He chose not to answer that question.

Provisional Measures Rejected by 58 Percent

Brasilia—Passing provisional measures may be the chief occupation of the Congress that will be installed in office this week, but in a poll conducted by O GLOBO, most of its members said they opposed that type of law (58 percent opposed and 26 percent in favor). Their stand is an indication that bills restricting the use of provisional measures have a good chance of passing.

Originally included in the Constitution as a replacement for the detested decree-laws used in the days of the military governments, the provisional measure has wound up turning on its creators. By making those measures conditional solely on urgency and the relevancy of the subject being dealt with and failing to list the matters which could not be covered by provisional measures, the legislative branch gave the executive branch broad powers to legislate and found itself struggling every month with a pile of provisional measures needing to be approved. Excessive use of the provisional measure has been the source of many complaints even by the current Congress.

Our poll of the new Congress reflects that state of mind. Tired of having to deal with the problem, the leader of the PMDB, Ibsen Pinheiro, and the leaders of such progovernment parties as the PDS (Amaral Netto) and the PTB (Gastone [variation in spelling of name as given] Righi) have expressed their opposition to provisional measures. In the PT, none of the congressmen interviewed by us took a stand in favor of their continued use. And the use of provisional measures is not supported by a majority even of the largest progovernment party, the PFL.

It is President Collor's PRN which runs to their defense: only two of that party's deputies said they opposed the measures. Deputy Paulo Octavio Pereira, who is a friend of President Collor's, did not express total opposition, but he left the question open and inserted a remark: "they should not go on forever." The probable future president of the Senate, Marco Maciel of Pernambuco, was more cautious and marked the box labeled "would not like to answer."

Do You Support Provisional Measures?

Answer	Percent
Yes	26.3
No	58.1
Indifferent	2.9
No position	8.1
No answer	0.7

Most of the new congressmen expressed opposition to the issuing of provisional measures—one of the Collor administration's distinguishing features. There is also a large number of congressmen who have no definite position on the matter.

Senate Support for Administration Continues

Brasilia—The new makeup of Congress indicates that President Collor will have to continue using the same formula to avoid bills he considers inopportune: the Chamber of Deputies, where he has a narrow majority, may pass them, but the Senate will reject them. In responding to our poll, the senators (only one-third of whom were up for election) were more positive than the deputies in their support for the administration, thus revealing that they identify more closely with the executive branch.

The safety net provided for the administration by Congress' reviewing chamber is revealed in these figures: most of the 44 senators polled (12) said they supported the administration, while a second group (nine senators) called itself independent. In the Chamber of Deputies, that ratio is reversed, with the largest group (88 deputies) calling itself independent and putting those who support the administration (68 deputies) in second place. Only 14 senators described themselves as being in the opposition, either moderate or systematic.

The Senate and Chamber of Deputies adopt the same position on such issues as support for Petrobras' monopoly on the exploitation of petroleum, rejection of the possibility of reelection for the president of the republic, introduction of the majority vote by district, and the deregulation of imports.

There are disagreements, however, when it comes to constitutional revision of the right to strike: the majority of the Chamber of Deputies supports the idea, while the majority of the Senate opposes it. The demand for party discipline divides the senators (22 in favor, 21 opposed) and reveals another difference between them and the deputies, most of whom feel that a congressman should vote as he pleases.

The administration can also rest easy concerning the foreign debt, the negotiation of which requires Senate approval under the terms of the Constitution. The second major consensus among the senators—the first being the majority vote by district—concerns its support for the way in which the administration is renegotiating the debt.

Another of the many contradictions in the new Congress is its ability to express majority support for the parliamentary form of government while simultaneously being divided on the question of party discipline, which is a basic presupposition for strengthening the parties—parties being the key element of the parliamentary system.

Slightly over 40 percent or the congressmen feel that discipline should be absolute. And even within that percentage, there are some, such as Nelson Carneiro (PMDB, Rio de Janeiro), president of the Senate and a supporter of the parliamentary system, who made it point to add "with provisos" but did not specify what

those provisos were. But the majority—nearly 50 percent—intend to have the freedom to vote independently of their party's position. In that kind of uncertainty, the PFL, which came into being precisely as a result of party disloyalty within the PDS headed by then presidential candidate Paulo Maluf, is one of the champions. It is followed closely by the PRN, with which it is working on the formation of a bloc, and the PDS itself.

In the PFL, although half the party says it supports a parliamentary systems, 70 percent intend to vote the way they please. The PRN is split down the middle. Considering that those two parties are getting ready to form a bloc, it is interesting to note that their members are navigating on their own even within their own parties. The figures for the PDS are the exact opposite of those for the PFL: 70 percent favor a parliamentary form of government, and 50 percent oppose absolute loyalty.

That same tendency is found in the largest opposition party, the PMDB, where 76 percent favor the parliamentary form of government and 54 percent support voting freedom. In the PT, loyalty has more support (60 percent), and that is consistent with the majority's support for a parliamentary form of government (68 percent).

Senate Attitude Toward Administration, by Party (percentages)

Party	Support	Independence	Moderate opposition	Systematic opposition	Critical support	No position	no answer	Number of responses
PDC	67				33			3
PDS					100			1
PDT			25	50			25	4
PFL	100							5
PMDB	24	24	24	12		12	6	17
PMN[1]					100			1
PRN					100			1
PSDB		33	33	33				6
PT			100					1
PTB	20	60				20		5
Total	27	20	18	14	7	9	5	44

1. PMN [National Mobilization Party]

Senatorial support for the administration totals 27 percent, compared to only 20 percent saying they are independents. At 14 percent, systematic opposition in the Senate is weaker than moderate opposition, which totals 18 percent. There are 9 percent who have no position on the matter, but critical support adds another 7 percent to the administration's base of support.

Chamber of Deputies Attitude Toward Administration, by Party (percentages)

Party	Support	Independence	Moderate opposition	Systematic opposition	Critical support	No position	no answer	Number of responses
PCdoB[1]				100				5
PCB				100				1
PDC	17	33	6	6	22	6	11	18
PDS	26	23	13		35	3		31
PDT		10	27	33	10	10	10	30
PFL	39	19	4		31	7		54
PL	27	45			18	9		11
PMDB	6	39	26	4	13	6	6	84
PRN	79	7		10	3			29
PRS[2]	25	75						4
PSB[3]		11	11	78				9
PSC[4]	50	50						2
PSD[5]		100						1
PSDB		28	36	8	8	4	16	25
PST[6]	100							1

Chamber of Deputies Attitude Toward Administration, by Party (percentages) (Continued)

Party	Support	Independence	Moderate opposition	Systematic opposition	Critical support	No position	no answer	Number of responses
PT		3	7	77			13	30
PTB	5	36		9	41	9		22
PTR[7]	100							1
PV[8]			100					1
Total	19	25	14	15	17	5	5	359

1. PCdoB [Communist Party of Brazil]
2. PRS [Social Reforms Party]
3. PSB [Brazilian Socialist Party]
4. PSC [Social Christian Party]
5. PSD [Democratic Social Party]
6. PST [Social Workers Party]
7. PTR [Renewal Labor Party]
8. PV [Vanguard Party]

In the Chamber of Deputies, according to our poll, independence with respect to the administration is the policy adopted by most of the deputies (25 percent). Congressmen supporting the administration—including five members of the PMDB—total no more than 19 percent. On the other hand, systematic opposition amounts to 15 percent, compared to critical support on the part of 17 percent.

Senate Opinion of Administration's Performance (percentages)

Party	Excellent	Good	Fair	Bad	Very bad	No position	No answer	Total interviewed
PDC		100						3
PDS		100						1
PDT			25	50	25			4
PFL	40	60						5
PMDB		24	29	24	12	12		17
PMN			100					1
PRN		100						1
PSDB			50	33			17	6
PT			100					1
PTB		80	20					5
Total	5	36	27	8	7	5	2	44

The makeup of the new Senate presents a more favorable situation for the federal government than that of the Chamber of Deputies. Of the 44 senators interviewed, 28 consider the administration's performance "good" or "fair." Two senators are even more emphatic, saying that President Collor's performance is "excellent." These figures suggest an tranquil majority for the administration.

Chamber of Deputies Opinion of Administration's Performance (percentages)

Party	Excellent	Good	Fair	Bad	Very bad	No position	No answer	Total interviewed
PCdoB				20	80			5
PCB					100			1
PDC		39	39	6		17		18
PDS		55	26	3		13	3	31
PDT			17	50	27	7		30
PFL	2	57	31	2	2	6		54
PL		36	64					11
PMDB		13	52	19		13	2	84

Chamber of Deputies Opinion of Administration's Performance (percentages) (Continued)

Party	Excellent	Good	Fair	Bad	Very bad	No position	No answer	Total interviewed
PRN	17	66	14			3		29
PRS		50				50		4
PSB				11	44	33	11	9
PSC	50			50				2
PSD						100		1
PSDB			60	24	4	12		25
PST		100						1
PT			3	33	63			30
PTB		23	45	14	9	9		22
PTR		100						1
PV			100					1
Total	2	27	33	16	11	9	1	359

According to 218 of the 359 deputies-elect we interviewed, the Collor administration's performance is either "good" or "fair." This means that in the upcoming legislature, the federal administration may, despite some difficulty, have a sizable majority in the Chamber of Deputies—the first step toward winning approval of the bills sent to Congress.

Festival of Contradictory Positions

Brasilia—Which of these congressmen would vote in Congress for an amendment enabling President Fernando Collor to be reelected: a) Amaral Netto; b) Roberto Campos; c) Roberto Freire; d) Cesar Maia; or e) Ronaldo Caiado? If you answered Roberto Freire, PCB deputy from Pernambuco, and Cesar Maia, the economist-deputy from Leonel Brizola's PDT, you are right. All the others, despite ties of friendship and political-economic affinities, would say no.

Those are some of the many surprises that are going to march through the new Congress. Both Freire and Cesar Maia go further, expressing a favorable opinion of provisional measures, an expedient much used by the administration and criticized by the Left and the Right. The other three oppose those measures.

Although President Collor is a long way from keeping his promise to leave the Left perplexed and the Right irritated, the responses to our questionnaire show that at least he has already left a lot of people confused.

Deputy Jose Genoino (PT) comes across as a moderate congressman compared to PTB leader Gasthone Righi or his fierce fellow party member, Mendes Botelho. Genoino checked off a simple "fair" to describe the federal administration. Righi went for "bad." Botelho not only underlined "very bad," but also decided to hold forth concerning the "confiscation of the savings and energy of the working class." In response to the next question, he dropped his extraordinary attitude and supported the possibility of reelection for the president.

Former President Jose Sarney, who is returning to the Senate for Amapa, has apparently not yet abandoned the "liturgy" which went with his former position and which he used to avoid situations of a more touchy nature. He agreed to answer the questionnaire, but to all 15 questions he checked off "would not like to answer." On Friday he apologized, saying that it is not a good idea for a former president to express opinions publicly. That same path was followed by Ulysses Guimaraes, who simply refused to answer any questions. Ibsen Pinheiro, a possible challenger for his position in the Chamber of Deputies, answered in his own way. Between "moderate opposition" and "systematic opposition," he wrote in the margin: "opposition."

If everyone in the Senate felt like Hydekel de Freitas (PFL, Rio de Janeiro) and everyone in the Chamber of Deputies felt like Paulo Octavio (PRN, Federal District), President Collor could start getting his suit ready for accepting the Nobel Prize. Both men agreed in every situation with an administration which they consider "excellent." Only five others like them were elected.

Marco Maciel, who is dreaming of becoming government leader in the Senate, answered our questions as though he were holding a hot potato in his hands. He supports what he considers a "good" administration, but excused himself on the question of the presidential reelection: "would not like to answer." What about the Petrobras monopoly? First he told us to check off "would not like to answer" but then—probably inspired by a not-so-distant past in which he consorted daily with former President Ernesto Geisel, an intransigent defender of Petrobras—he screwed up his courage and came out in defense of retaining the monopoly. What about the provisional measures—is he for them or against them? He had no hesitation: "would not like to answer."

Some congressmen seem a little out of place in their parties, or perhaps they have not yet sized up their blocs correctly. That is the case with Deputy Cesar Maia, who

is not exactly a Johnny-come-lately in the PDT. He feels that party discipline must be absolute. He is completely in favor of privatization. The only reason he is not alone in that position is that the PDT has just received a newcomer from Bahia, Deputy Clovis Assis. As if that were not enough, he also supports the provisional measures. Another PDT member, anthropologist Darcy Ribeiro, will arrive in Brasilia this Friday to occupy an office in the Senate. He is promising to radically oppose a "very bad" administration, but he does not conceal his passion for Minister of Economy Zelia Cardoso de Mello. The only point on which he agrees with the administration is the foreign debt.

The senator-elect for the PT, Eduardo Suplicy, who once starred in unforgettable moments in the Chamber of Deputies when he defended tomatoes against charges by former Minister Delfim Neto that they were inflationary, is now returning, this time to the newly elected other chamber. And he is undecided. He says he is rethinking his position in favor of the presidential system. He manages to be simultaneously opposed to revision of the strike law and in favor of its expansion pure and simple. Replacing him in the Chamber of Deputies is a new comrade, prosecuting attorney Helio Bicudo, who is not all that certain about the party loyalty that is defended unconditionally by Suplicy. He noted: "Discipline, yes, but with freedom of conscience."

On the question of party discipline, former Governor Miguel Arraes is avoiding the subject as he enters the Chamber of Deputies: he checked off "would not like to answer."

Congress Members Interviewed

State	Number polled	Total state bloc
Sao Paulo	50	63
Rio de Janeiro	39	49
Bahia	38	42
Rio Grande do Sul	30	34
Pernambuco	22	28
Parana	20	33
Goias	19	20
Ceara	17	25
Santa Catarina	16	19
Acre	11	11
Amazonas	11	11
Federal District	11	11
Tocantins	11	11
Amapa	10	11
Roraima	10	11
Minas Gerais	56	56
Paraiba	8	15
Maranhao	7	21

Congress Members Interviewed (Continued)

State	Number polled	Total state bloc
Mato Grosso do Sul	5	11
Piaui	5	13
Mato Grosso	4	11
Rio Grande do Norte	2	11
Alagoas	1	12

Of the 584 future members of Congress, 403 (359 deputies and 44 senators) were interviewed by O GLOBO.

Note: None of the future congressmen from Espirito Santo, Para, Rondonia, or Sergipe were interviewed.

Method: For one month, from 15 December 1990 to 15 January 1991, O GLOBO mobilized its reporters in Rio de Janeiro and at its branches in Brasilia, Sao Paulo, Porto Alegre, Belo Horizonte, Recife, and Salvador as well as its correspondents throughout the country to identify groups of opinion in the future Congress. They interviewed 403 newly elected congressmen—359 deputies and 44 senators—representing 80.1 percent of the full Chamber, 54.3 percent of the Senate, and 69 percent of Congress. O GLOBO attempted to interview as many elected representatives as possible. Some were inaccessible, but that does not distort the accurate proportions of party representation or the regional distribution of the two chambers.

The interviews were conducted using a questionnaire with 15 multiple-choice questions covering topics ranging from the support that President Collor will receive from the new Congress to the level of approval for his economic policy and matters concerned with constitutional revision, which is an issue these congressmen will have to deal with in 1993. All the questions included the possible answer "would not like to answer." It was not much used by the congressmen, who identified themselves at the top of each questionnaire.

The vast majority of the interviews were conducted with the congressmen in person, although some answered by telephone and others sent faxes—even from abroad, where some of the respondents were during the congressional recess. The answers were processed at O GLOBO's Data Processing Center.

* VEJA Poll Profiles New National Congress

91SM0200A Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese
6 Feb 91 pp 40-42

[First paragraph is VEJA introduction]

[Text] A poll reveals that the new Congress favors a parliamentary form of government, wants to see an end to provisional measures, and supports an interest rate cap of 12 percent.

The National Congress, in which 503 deputies and 31 senators assumed their seats last Friday, is made up

primarily of people who voted for Fernando Collor in the second round of the presidential election of 1989. But not all members of Congress support the administration: 33.5 percent describe themselves as convinced members of the opposition, 24.9 percent regard themselves as loyal supporters, and 41.6 percent do not define themselves as one thing or the other. Having been elected with power to rework the Constitution in 1993, they are split down the middle over whether to move that reform up to this year, but form a large majority favoring the parliamentary system, an end to provisional measures, and the limiting of interest rates to 12 percent per year.

The above portrait of the Congress that Collor is going to live with for the rest of his term of office is the result of a poll (see the tables) which was conducted between 3 and 23 January by MSC [expansion not given] Opinion Market Studies and which is being published exclusively by VEJA. The poll consisted of interviews with 304 of the 584 members of Congress. The MSC's poll also includes something else that is new: although it is known that the balloting in 1990 defeated 65 percent of those elected to the Constituent Assembly in 1986—the first time in 20 years that there has been a turnover rate that high—the figures show that the posture and conduct of most of the new arrivals are quite similar to those of their predecessors. "The new Congress is similar to the Constituent Assembly," says political scientist Bolivar Lamounier of the Sao Paulo Institute for Economic, Social, and Political Studies. He adds: "It takes a liberal view of social questions and a conservative view of economic matters." Minister of Justice Jarbas Passarinho says: "The way Congress acts is going to be determined by how the political game develops."

Who received your vote for president of the republic in the second round of balloting? (percentages)

Respondent's party	Collor	Lula	Void/blank	No answer
PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party]	38.2	36.4	14.5	10.9
PFL [Liberal Front Party]	86.5	2.7	2.7	8.1
PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party]	26.3	47.4	15.8	10.5
PRN [National Reconstruction Party]	94.1	-	-	5.9
PT [Workers Party]	-	100.0	-	-
PBS [expansion not given]	92.3	-	7.7	-
PTB [Brazilian Labor Party]	64.7	17.6	11.8	5.9
PDT [Democratic Workers Party]	16.7	77.8	-	5.6
PSC [Social Christian Party]	-	100.0	-	-
PSB [Brazilian Socialist Party]	-	100.0	-	-
PRS [Social Reforms Party]	66.7	33.3	-	-
PST [Social Workers Party]	100.0	-	-	-
PSD [Democratic Social Party]	100.0	-	-	-
No party	100.0	-	-	-

Most of the deputies and senators entering the National Congress this year helped elect President Fernando Collor in 1989.

Wrestling and cocktail parties: A crucial question in connection with the new Congress is how it will get along with the president of the republic, an area in which scenes of free-style wrestling and animated cocktail parties between those involved are the rule. According to the MSC, the new congressmen are arriving in Congress prepared to fully exercise their prerogatives. The first target in that assault is the provisional measures—that instrument by which Planalto Palace [the presidency] is able to issue directives that take effect without the approval of Congress, which has 30 days in which to reject them or not. As of last week, after being in office less than 11 months, Collor had issued 151 measures of that type. The MSC poll shows that nearly eight out of 10 congressmen arrived in Brasilia intending to do away with provisional measures—or to create mechanisms capable of reducing Planalto Palace's firepower. "The executive branch has demonstrated that it is an insatiable publisher of provisional measures," says Deputy Roberto Freire of the Pernambuco PCB [Brazilian Communist Party].

The poll shows that there is one subject on which Congress and the president agree. That is the change of political system. Collor has already said on various occasions that he prefers the parliamentary system. The MSC's figures indicate that a large majority of deputies and senators have the same opinion. The disagreement in this case is a matter of when and how. In Collor's view, the parliamentary system should begin after 1994, which is when his term as president will end. In the view of a good many congressmen, the change in system may occur before that—if the chaos in the economy ends up bringing on a political collapse in the country. Attention is called, however, to the type of parliamentary system preferred by the deputies and senators. In countries where the main tasks of government are the responsibility of a prime minister chosen by Congress and the president of the republic has powers similar to those of the Queen of England, members of Parliament are elected by the district majority vote system. Under that

system, the country is divided into election districts, and candidates compete for votes in each region—someone running in Copacabana, for example, could not compete for votes in Madureira. The MSC poll shows that Congress currently favors an unusual option in the parliamentary system. Under that option, the deputies would be elected by proportional vote, which is the system in effect today, with each candidate competing for the support of the voters in an entire state. "A parliamentary system is possible only if it is based on the district majority vote," says Antonio Carlos Konder Reis, deputy governor-elect of Santa Catarina, who gave up his seat in Congress last week.

Interest cap: On economic issues, there is a noticeable similarity between the old and the new National Congress. One of the most controversial topics at the Constituent Assembly—agrarian reform—is not likely to experience any substantial changes over the next four years. Nearly 60 percent of the congressmen are opposed to agrarian reform on productive land. The same consensus exists with respect to government enterprises. A large majority of congressmen feel that the privatizations need to be examined and approved in detail by the Congress exactly as required by the Constitution now in effect. The MSC poll also shows that half the Congress advocates retaining the restrictions on operations by foreign companies in the areas of mining and petroleum prospecting and that five out of every 10 congressmen favor establishing a maximum interest rate of 12 percent per year. Controlled interest rates, considered the most exotic of all the proposals to come out of the Constituent Assembly's economic laboratories, have not yet gone into effect even though the Constitution was completed two years ago.

"Establishing a maximum interest rate of 12 percent is like revoking the law of gravity," says the secretary of national finance, Luis Fernando Wellisch. "It simply does no good." Another surprising topic in this area is the one concerning the dismissal of government employees. According to the MSC poll, over 40 percent of the congressmen are in favor of the current system of job security. But when we add together those in favor of eliminating the restrictions (35 percent) and those wanting to revise that item in the Constitution (10 percent), we see that there is room for something new and good in Congress: negotiation. "It is not possible to dismiss permanent employees because that is a vested right, but we also cannot have absolute job security because that promotes impunity," says Deputy Ricardo Fiuza (PFL, Pernambuco).

Stands on Various Issues (percentages)

Issue	In favor	Opposed	Other answers
Banning agrarian reform on productive land	59.7	22.2	18.1
Banning dismissal of government employees	42.5	35.3	12.2
Congressional approval for privatization of government enterprises	83.7	10.4	5.9
Restrictions on foreign firms involved in mining and petroleum prospecting	50.7	29.0	20.4
Annual interest rate of 12 percent	56.1	26.2	17.7
Stiffer penalty for firings in private sector	43.4	41.6	14.9
Expansion of unemployment insurance	76.9	16.7	6.3
Death penalty	23.1	63.8	13.1
Plebiscite on death penalty	61.5	32.1	6.3
More government control over media	50.7	40.7	8.6

The new Congress is following in the footsteps of the old one by rescuing economic nationalism, defending government employees, and wanting a ceiling on interest rates.

Success—The MSC poll reveals another similarity between yesterday's Congress and that of today: the congressmen continue to feel that the state is the preferred instrument for dealing with the country's social wounds. Stimulated by a state of economic confusion which last year caused Brazil's GDP [gross domestic product] to decline by four points, the congressmen arrived in Brasilia prepared to strengthen unemployment insurance, an invention that appeared two years ago. They also do not intend to delete a single day from that article in the Constitution which provides four months of maternity leave. Although singled out at first as a proposal that would cause an explosion in company budgets and throw thousands of women into unemployment, maternity leave has turned out to be a success.

"In the beginning, there were even firms that did not want to comply with the legislation, but now they all accept it, and we are not receiving any complaints on the subject," says Telmo Dalton, chairman of the Porto Alegre Clothing Workers Union, which represents 8,000 workers, 6,500 of whom are women. "Unemployment has been the result of recession, not of maternity leave," he adds. "Congress always reflects the thinking of the Brazilian people," says Minister of Health Alceni Guerra. "Since the Brazilian people have not changed, Congress has not changed either." In matters involving customs and moral convictions, the congressmen who took their seats on Friday have their own ideas. They reject the death penalty six to four—but are willing, by almost the same percentage, to let the matter be resolved

by a plebiscite. The Constituent Assembly abolished all types of censorship. The MSC poll shows that now, two years after the TV stations began enjoying a degree of freedom unknown since they first appeared, half the congressmen feel that the government should have mechanisms for controlling what goes out over the airwaves—along lines similar to what the Ministry of Justice has been doing.

"Intelligent administration"—It is obvious that the current Congress will not be like the old one in every detail, and it can be expected that in the course of its work, there are going to be surprises of all kinds. One of them occurred last week, in fact. Veteran Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes, who in the MSC poll appeared to be the most influential of all the congressmen, was forced to abandon the race for speaker of the Chamber of Deputies and hand the party's baton over to Ibsen Pinheiro of Rio Grande do Sul, who started the weekend as the favorite candidate for occupying that post. Another topic that is going to cause temperatures to rise is Senator Ney Maranhao's amendment authorizing reelection of the president of the republic beginning in 1994—thus allowing Fernando Collor himself to run for a second consecutive term as president.

According to the MSC, 61 percent of the congressmen oppose reelection. It is widely rejected even in President Collor's own PRN—by 35.3 percent. Brazilian congressional history teaches, however, that few things are as unfathomable as the mood of Congress when it comes to presidential terms of office. An opinion poll in 1987 showed that 40 percent of the deputies and senators taking office that year supported a four-year term for President Jose Sarney, while another 28 percent preferred six years and the minority—20.5 percent—wanted five years. The following year, when it came down to the actual vote, 304 congressmen voted for a five-year term, and only 224 voted for four years—and a six-year term did not even enter the picture.

Aware that the moods and even the opinions of congressmen change according to political circumstances, President Fernando Collor's administration is handling Ney Maranhao's bill with caution. The idea is to postpone bringing up the proposal on reelection until the period of constitutional revision, when the amendment can be approved by 50 percent plus one of the congressmen. Under the current rules, passage of a constitutional amendment requires the approval of three-fifths of the congressmen—a difficult goal to achieve at the moment. But the poll reveals nothing about the future. "An intelligent administration would not launch a discussion of that kind at the wrong time," says one minister. "And the Collor administration is an intelligent administration."

Stands on Political, Related Issues (percentages)

Issue	In favor	Opposed	Other answers
Moving the 1993 revision of the Constitution up to 1991	36.2	36.2	27.5
Establishment of parliamentary form of government	60.2	32.6	7.2
Majority vote by district	27.6	65.6	6.8
Current system of provisional measures	15.8	76.0	8.1
Reelection of president of the republic	29.0	61.1	10.0

The new members of Congress support a change in the form of government but refuse to adopt the majority vote by district.

Confidence in Figures

To carry out their poll of the National Congress, the MSC's pollsters spent 20 days conducting interviews. Some of those interviews were conducted by telephone—when vacationing deputies and senators could be located. The rest were conducted in Brasilia when the special sessions of Congress had brought a good many congressmen to the federal capital. In the end, the pollsters reached a total of 304 congressmen, or 52 percent of the full Congress, and that is a sample of excellent quality. Although everyone knows that by the time their terms expire in 1994, these politicians may have changed their minds about many things, the figures are a good guide for the study of Congress. "Barring disasters and other unexpected events, I can guarantee that we have a very clear forecast of how the deputies and senators will behave in the future," says Antonio Carlos da Silva, or "Caio," who heads the MSC. That polling institute, established in Brasilia three years ago, has billings today that place it among the 10 largest such firms in the country. The institute's confidence in its poll is based on the percentage of deputies and senators interviewed—that being quite close to the percentage actually present for Congress' day-to-day work. Parties such as the PMDB, for example, which has 23 percent of the vote, accounted for approximately 25 percent of the interviews—and that is an insignificant difference in statistical terms. And the PRN, with 7.8 percent of the seats, accounted for 7.7 percent of the interviews. The distribution by region was equally representative. The sample reflecting the Northeastern bloc, which constitutes 30 percent of Congress, accounted for 28 percent of the interviews. The sample for the Southeast Region, which accounts for 31 percent of Congress, provided 30 percent, and so on.

Chile

PCCh Secretary General Discusses Party

PY2202122891 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 10 Feb 91 Sunday Supplement pp 11, 12

[Interview with Volodia Teitelboim, secretary general of the Communist Party of Chile (PCCh) by Carlos Tejos—place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Tejos] Your first and last names are Russian .... You are head of a party which is said to be a satellite of Moscow.... Are you closer to Chile or to the USSR?

[Teitelboim] I am Chilean. I have no special link with the USSR except that during my exile there I worked for solidarity with Chile through the radio programs.

[Tejos] By doing that you helped the international isolation of the country.

[Teitelboim] Never. I am a patriot. I was working for freedom and democracy, against their enemies: Pinochet and his friends. Above all it was in the cause of human rights after seeing so many deaths, missing, people with slit throats.... My responsibility was to talk on behalf of those who could not because I am a Chilean patriot.

[Tejos] The PCCh has said that it recognizes the USSR as the only fatherland.

[Teitelboim] We never said that.

[Tejos] Are you a "Moscow man"?

[Teitelboim] No, I am a Santiago man.

[Tejos] An agent of the Soviet secret police?

[Teitelboim] I was never a KGB agent. I am antipolice.

[Tejos] Also antimilitary?

[Teitelboim] Antimilitarist!

[Tejos] Are they different concepts?

[Teitelboim] Well, antimilitarist: yes, antimilitary: no. The military must be at the service of the entire country, not at the service of a man, of a class, and it must never be an enemy of the people.

[Tejos] Does the PCCh answer to the people or the Kremlin?

[Teitelboim] We answer to the Chilean people. We are independent of Moscow.

[Tejos] How do you explain your support for the Soviet invasions of Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Afghanistan?

[Teitelboim] We made a mistake in being loyal to the CPSU. [passage omitted]

[Tejos] You have justified terrorist violence.

[Teitelboim] Violence is a product of history. There was never a more violent period than the one which started on 11 September 1973 when the Army commander lead an uprising and declared war against the constitutional government which lead to 17 years of political violence.

[Tejos] There was more bloodshed, and more leftist terrorism against that violence.

[Teitelboim] Well, there were people who thought that it was necessary to protect life with defensive actions.

[Tejos] Is this why you morally justified the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front, the armed branch of the PCCh?

[Teitelboim] The PCCh does not have an armed branch.

[Tejos] It was reported that there were Communists in the front.

[Teitelboim] Yes, there were, but not all of them were Communists. They were united by the wish to liberate the country from an unbearable dictatorship through those defensive actions.

[Tejos] Are those actions justified now?

[Teitelboim] Not now, especially since Patricio Aylwin became president. We Communists believe that violence was justified then. It makes no sense now.

[Tejos] You said that a process of change in the PCCh is absolutely necessary. Your party is in crisis because some members advocate a change of mentality while others do not.

[Teitelboim] The crisis in the party has many causes. The most serious is what happened with the governments of Eastern Europe, the recognition of a wrong communist model. For some comrades the crisis also meant that communism has no future. They have already left the party.

[Tejos] The Assembly for Communist Renewal (Arco) was created and you were accused of being afraid of self-criticism, renewal, and internal democracy....

[Teitelboim] The renewal that I advocate is a renewal that is possible to carry out, under the condition that we do not deny that we are communists. We are faithful to our original cause.

[Tejos] Are you also faithful to the Fidel Castro dictatorship?

[Teitelboim] Cuba does not have the type of government that you would believe.

[Tejos] It is a dictatorship which resists changes....

[Teitelboim] Cuba has a government which has been besieged by the U.S. Government for the last 30 years, under the U.S. desire to exterminate it.

[Tejos] Do you not believe that the Cuban political regime is far from being democratic? Castro has maintained an iron hand for three decades. There are no possibilities of government changes through elections. There is no freedom of expression or political opposition....

[Teitelboim] (becomes annoyed for the first time) Tell the U.S. Government that if it lifts the blockade and stops the harassment, Cuba may breath a little easier.

[Tejos] And the Cubans, when will they?

[Teitelboim] Without an enemy like Washington, Cubans will have a chance to open up much more.

[Tejos] And stop having a dictator?

[Teitelboim] Fidel is not. He is a leader the people accept and love because has an extraordinary talent.

[Tejos] To violate human rights?

[Teitelboim] They are respected. It should also be kept in mind that there is a U.S. conspiracy.... Fidel has to defend himself from the aggression.

[Tejos] Have you done anything for the Cuban political prisoners held in jails for decades?

[Teitelboim] They are not very many.

[Tejos] There are just over 200 left in Chile and their freedom is one of the tasks of the PCCh.

[Teitelboim] Fine. In the United States how many do you believe there are?

[Tejos] I asked you about the island.

[Teitelboim] Fidel opened the doors for all of those who want to leave.

[Tejos] But not to the elections.

[Teitelboim] When he believes that elections are the best thing for his people, he will. In Cuba there are consultations and they are clean.

[Tejos] Why so much confidence in Castro? Why did you not have that confidence in the plebiscites held by Pinochet?

[Teitelboim] Do not compare Pinochet with Fidel.

[Tejos] Pinochet stayed in power for 17 years and his institutional work allowed democracy.... Castro has been in power more than 30 years and nothing....

[Teitelboim] Yes, but there is a difference in quality between the two. Fidel did not make any people disappear. He never made a baby disappear.

Communist Leader on Ties With Terrorist Group

PY2202171891 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 11 Feb 91 p C2

[Text] The Communist Party of Chile [PCCh] maintains relations of "consideration and friendship with the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR]" and can confirm that this organization has not been involved in any recent terrorist action.

This was stated by Jorge Inzunza, member of the PCCh Central Committee, during a news conference yesterday. He rejected the criticism leveled by Sergio Vuskovic, former PCCh member and current member of the Assembly for Communist Renewal [Arco], against the party for allegedly maintaining a militarist political concept.

As an example, Vuskovic mentioned a news conference recently granted at the PCCh headquarters by two "former FPMR combatants" called Luis Melo and Raul Blanchet, who defended the armed option even in the present situation of the democratic transition.

Inzunza thus rejected all terrorist actions, but said he could not confirm if all the PCCh members in the FPMR had abandoned this extremist organization which, among other terrorist actions, was responsible for the attack on former President Augusto Pinochet's motorcade in September 1986.

Inzunza described as "legitimate all forms of struggle carried out by the PCCh during the military regime," but added that his party "will insist on its effort to reduce the importance of a military approach in Chile."

Inzunza confirmed, however, that armed actions are no longer justified in Chile. He also said that it is necessary "to change the conditions in the country" to avoid a confinement in barracks in the Army, as happened in December 1990.

He said that nothing leads him to think that the FPMR will act out of revenge if the Rettig report does not satisfy the aspirations for truth and justice of the human rights organizations and of the relatives of political detained, missing, and executed victims. He said that the PCCh rejects terrorism.

The PCCh leader said that his party has "serious reservations regarding the result of the 'peace proposal' of the UDI [Democratic Independent Union], the National Renewal Party, and the Coalition of Parties for Democracy, with the exception of the Party for Democracy, whose Vice President Jorge Schaulsohn has said that it is important to first learn the contents of the Rettig report. The government will make the report public next March.

Inzunza criticized the fact that human rights organizations and the relatives of the victims were not consulted before the document was concluded.

The PCCh leader said that rightist sectors had managed to introduce concepts of historic responsibility for the leaders of the Popular Unity government. He said that the PCCh "does not accept that we are all responsible for the events that took place in the last 17 years."

Although he appreciates the work done by the "Truth and Reconciliation Committee," he said that the PCCh doubts the effectiveness of the report. He added: "There is a general feeling among the citizenry that the truth will not be made known and that justice will not be done."

UK Foreign Trade Minister Discusses Investments

PY2602181791 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0035 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Santiago, 25 Feb (EFE)—Acting Chilean Economy Minister Jorge Marshall met today in Santiago with British Foreign Trade Minister Timothy Sainbury [name and title as received] to discuss London's interest in signing an agreement that will guarantee British investments in Chile.

Marshall announced that next week the government of Chilean President Patricio Aylwin will submit to Congress a bill on this issue.

The Chilean minister expressed his country's interest in the reduction of levels of protectionism. He added that he talked with Sainbury on the need to enhance the Uruguay Round of the GATT negotiations for international trade and thus achieve real progress.

According to Marshall, one of the most serious points of disagreement in these negotiations has been the desire of the EEC—the United Kingdom is an EEC member—to increase protectionist measures. This would particularly affect developing nations like those in Latin America.

The Chilean minister said that the British are interested in including some aspects involving agricultural products, reducing the prospects sought at the Uruguay Round, and achieving a substantial reduction of subsidies on agricultural products.

The British foreign trade minister and a delegation of advisers and entrepreneurs began an official visit to Chile on Sunday [24 February]. Sainbury's visit will conclude tomorrow, Tuesday [26 February].

Colombia

Defense, Government Ministers on Army, Talks

PA2702003291 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Excerpts] There were two important appearances before the Senate's Fourth Commission yesterday when Defense Minister Oscar Botero Restrepo and Government Minister Humberto de la Calle Lombana explained their position on the self-defense groups and the army budget. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Botero] Reserves have never existed. I believe it is a bad way of focusing on it because certain newspaper headlines give the impression that the Defense Ministry is a loose wheel in the public administration, and that is not the case. Defense Ministry expenditures are supervised by CONPES [National Council for Economic and Social Policy], by the Council of Ministers, by the Comptroller General's Office, and by Congress through the commission in charge of public expenditures, and we have to provide them with a detailed report on all aspects of our spending. Expenditures never had any reserves. The one that did have reserves was the defense plans. They had reserves, but expenditures have been made public. Defense Ministry budgets appear in the country's general budget. Therefore, it has never been hidden. I believe the commission that has been appointed has been very beneficial because we are the ones in need of showing off our needs. Therefore, the more the people are aware of the needs of the Defense Ministry and of the way the funds are used, the greater the acceptance we are going to have of the job we are doing.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct].

[Botero] No, but how can that be if there is poverty?

[Reporter] Do you lack it?

[Botero] Yes, we do.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the self-defense groups, yesterday there was a proposal to ask permission of the government to create a type of army in the rural areas. Self-defense groups in the Middle Magdalena region said that if the actions against the guerrillas were not reactivated, they would reactivate their criminal, operational apparatuses. What is your opinion?

[Botero] They are operating illegally. They cannot create an army and act by themselves. Therefore, I think they are making unwise comments that will only lead to greater problems than the ones we already have. I believe the cattlemen's association is aware of all the problems. It has faced a very difficult situation in the last few years and has made sensible proposals on what is being done and on what should be done in the future. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] I have heard that it would not be good to renew the dialogue in La Uribe because it would demoralize the military forces. Is that true or not?

[Botero] The military forces have great integrity and great moral strength. Therefore, they are not going to be demoralized because La Uribe Municipality or any other part of the country is chosen to hold such talks. The government minister was sufficiently clear on how the site would be chosen. It would not be a place that is occupied by military forces or where military operations are taking place. Therefore, there is no reason to be demoralized here. As for that word, demoralization, I am never pleased when I hear it mentioned in connection with the institution because I believe that at all times the institution has always shown its high morale.

[Reporter] Are some military officers uncomfortable because of the criticcal comments made to you as a result of the different operations? For example, CROMOS magazine asks if the heads of the generals should be chopped off. Does this bother you? Are there confrontations between civilians and military officers inside the government?

[Botero] There are no confrontations inside the government. On the contrary, there is a great unity in all the aspects at stake at this moment. We maintain excellent relations with the finance minister and with the different ministers, with whom I have talked in the last few days. The emergency plan being implemented with the taxes was first coordinated with the finance minister, the mines and energy minister, the public works minister, and the communications minister. Therefore, this is a government that is well-coordinated, and we are acting according to the plans and guidelines dictated by the president.

[Reporter] Today we learned about a letter sent to you by the attorney general, who asks the Armed Forces to be straightforward in their operations.

[Botero] This morning we held a meeting with the attorney general and he mentioned to me that he had sent me a letter. I have not had the opportunity to read it, but I am absolutely sure that the attorney general's attitude toward the institution is valid. We believe in him here. He has our support. I believe the job done by the Attorney General's Office is very important and its supervision is for the interest of the country and the institution.

[Reporter] Some commentators have been saying that the government is applying the carrot-and-stick policy. Would it be good for the military forces to be given the opportunity to use more stick?

[Botero] If by using the word stick we mean the public force's actions, at no time have we been deprived of the opportunity to act. What is the government doing at present? Seeking to strengthen the state security organizations, justice, and everything that might help collective peace. So at no time have the institution's hands and feet been tied. [end recording]

Questions asked Government Minister Humberto de la Calle Lombana dealt with the meeting of the Senate's Fourth Commission and the channeling of the money in the national defense budget.

[Begin recording] [De la Calle] For more than six hours, we discussed with the senators—I would say with considerable detail—the general public order situation and the process to be followed. We considered the use of the special tax to restore public order and the possibilities for and perspectives of the peace talks. I think this was a very positive meeting. The senators expressed marked interest in these subjects.

[Reporter] What was the agenda during this meeting?

[De la Calle] There were basically two topics: utilization of the special tax to restore public order in the form of the creation of new mobile brigades, a special police body to protect the energy and transport sectors, and military intelligence expenditures. There is much interest in the Senate about the dialogue, a possibility I think is opening slowly and favorably.

[Reporter] Regarding the dialogue, will you commission members report to Congress on the time and exact location of the meeting in La Uribe?

[De la Calle] The situation is already familiar to the public. The rebel groups have agreed to talk and are selecting places, within the conditions established by the government, in territories where there are no military forces at present.

[Reporter] Does the defense minister feel uncomfortable over the decision by CONPES to make changes in the military forces' finances and remove the veil from the military expenditures?

[De la Calle] No, quite the opposite. CONPES has been involved in military expenditures for quite some time. This report has been given more importance than it has. CONPES has been involved in the overall establishment of Defense Ministry expenditures for a long time. The true novelty is the participation of Finance and Planning Ministry officials in the procedure to apply these expenditures, but there is nothing here that has upset the defense minister.

[Reporter] In other words, the military forces have not been handling their budget by themselves.

[De la Calle] No, they have not. This is clear. As I said, today's announcement has been given more importance than it really has.

[Reporter] While it has been reported that there will be talks with the guerrillas, the rebels continue to perpetrate attacks.

[De la Calle] Again and again, we have explained we do not believe in a process that starts with a cease-fire, because earlier experiences in this have been unpleasant. Otherwise, we would deprive the military forces of their constitutional right to intervene in the restoration of public order throughout the national territory. We understand a true cease-fire to be the result of a political process leading to a definitive peace. Otherwise, it would not make much sense.

[Reporter] Yesterday the Armed Forces announced the formation of groups of armed vigilantes to operate in regions devastated by kidnappings and demands for financial cooperation with guerrillas. Is this not the equivalent of creating self-defense groups or something like that?

[De la Calle] No. The military response is sufficient, precisely because of the creation of these special forces. One mobile brigade, the only one in existence, acted in Cordoba with a success acknowledged by all sectors. So this seems unnecessary.

[Reporter] In other words, you disagree with the proposal?

[De la Calle] We disagree with the creation of self-defense groups that contribute to prolonging a conflict.

We disagree basically because we are sure the state forces are in a position to control the activities I have mentioned.

[Reporter] If these groups persist or if cattlemen confirm their decision to create them, what will the government do to reject this?

[De la Calle] May I repeat that the creation of true self-defense groups is frowned upon by the government because it contributes to perpetuating a situation of violence. This is different from the right for legitimate defense that Colombian laws allow when citizens' rights are violated. [end recording]

Ecuador

Minister Sees 'Drastic' OPEC Production Cuts

PA2502163691 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2043 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] Quito, 22 Feb (EFE)—The Minister of Energy and Mines Diego Tamariz said today that the present worldwide oil surplus, as spring approaches in the northern hemisphere, will force OPEC to make "drastic" production cuts after the Persian Gulf war.

The official believes that an emergency meeting of OPEC will be necessary "when all the war-related issues have been cleared up" because, he added, at this time "there is very little the organization can do".

Venezuela and Ecuador, with a production of 2.5 million and 300,000 barrels per day [bpd], respectively, are the only Latin American members of the world oil cartel.

Tamariz said that in addition to the problems stemming from the Persian Gulf war, "spring is going to begin soon in the northern hemisphere and this will force OPEC to make drastic cuts in oil production," due to the reduction in the demand for energy.

He predicted that such decisions "will be more difficult to make" when Iraq and Kuwait, now being replaced by Venezuela and Saudi Arabia, reenter the world market at the end of the conflict. Tamariz estimated that a figure higher than 2 million bpd will "balance supply and demand."

Venezuela reported on 21 February that it will increase its production by 120,000 bpd over the next few months, after a 500,000 bpd increase since August 1990, following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait; this means that Venezuela would be producing at maximum capacity.

Ecuador is currently producing at maximum capacity while Venezuela is planning to increase its production capacity to 2.65 million bpd by the end of the year and to 5 million bpd by the year 2000.

* Industry Minister on Andean Pact, Policy

91SM0182A Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 21 Jan 91 p 2

[Text] The minister of industry, commerce, integration and fishing, Dr. Juan Falconi Puig, announced in Guayaquil that the new schedule of import tariffs will be put into effect this week. Customs duties under this schedule will range from a minimum of 5 percent to a maximum of 35 percent, depending on the type of product or raw material.

Minister Falconi Puig spent the weekend in Guayaquil where he has his private residence, and today, after attending to matters pertaining to his high-level ministerial functions, he will return to the capital of the Republic.

Protection of National Industry

He said that the setting up of a new tariff is in keeping with the government's commitment to implement a reasonable policy to protect national industry, so as to enable it to modernize and become more efficient, just as the public sector will have to do.

Minister Juan Falconi Puig announced a forthcoming analysis of price policies on items produced domestically for domestic consumption, and asserted that he will "take into account" the views of the Chambers of Production on everything pertaining to the sectors he heads.

At ease and sure of himself, Dr. Falconi Puig stated his intent to establish a very direct link with all production sectors, and to become a capable, efficient and accessible point of contact between the government and the country's economic sectors.

Opening to Foreign Investment

He will devote special efforts toward developing openings for foreign investment, and will shortly propose to the Andean Group a revision of the Cartagena Agreement Commission's Decision 220. The intent of this revision will be to introduce a further easing of the treatment of foreign capital investments.

He also proposes to streamline administrative procedures, simplifying them in order to speed up the processing of all applications.

He said he intends to institute a sweeping administrative reform in his Ministry. He has already initiated talks with the CAF [Andean Development Corporation] to obtain a non-reimbursable credit of $150 million to be devoted to this end.

Exports

Describing the policies that are to be implemented in the immediate future, the minister stated that he intends to devote special effort also to exports, with a view to fostering them and simplifying all related procedures.

Support for Fishing

He also announced plans for developing the fishing sector. These will include the establishing of new ports, for which he already has the support of Vice President Luis Parodi.

He indicated that he intends to visit Quito, Guayaquil and Cuenca every week to cover the administrative aspects of his functions in those places.

"We are going to broaden our territorial coverage of the country," he said. "Ministry officials will be visiting the different regions periodically."

Personally, Dr. Falconi Puig plans to spend one day a week in Guayaquil, and another day in Cuenca, to attend to all aspects relating to the southern and coastal regions. "We want to be an effective link between the government and the productive sectors. We are not going to wait for them to come to us; we are going to look for them," he reiterated.

Lowering of Customs Duties No Surprise

Describing his principal line of approach, Dr. Falconi Puig said that the Andean Group is not new to Ecuador, and that no one should have been surprised by the implementation if its mechanisms.

As for the lowering of subregional tariffs, he said that, in May, Ecuador will go to Caracas with some clear-cut proposals, the formulation of which is now being worked on.

He has no doubt that Ecuador will institute a process of lowering customs duties. "What will be decided at the meeting of the presidents of the Andean countries in Caracas," he said, "will be whether we shall join it in 1992 or 1995."

Permanent Dialogue With Chambers

He also said that he will be maintaining an ongoing dialogue with the Chambers of Production and will take their views into account.

Continuity

Dr. Falconi Puig reiterated that there will be continuity in the Ministry's policies. The styles of the ministers may change—he pointed out—but the policies are set by the president of the Republic, and the ministers are the executors of that policy.

* National Convention Ends; Bucaram Comments

91SM0182B Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish
14 Jan 91 p 8

[Text] The Ecuadoran Roldosist Party [PRE] concluded its national convention on Saturday, and its 21 regional leaders, together with its district unit leaders, outlined the different strategies the party intends to pursue this year. A committee of 200 university students was also formed to draw up a governmental platform to be implemented in the event that the Bucaram-Proano Maya twosome comes to power in 1992.

The PRE's deputy national chairman, lawyer Oscar Celleri, who presided the session, stated that the country is tired of hearing those who always express their opinion on the state of the country, but never come up with solutions. "We have therefore decided to ask talented youth and professionals with actual knowledge of the country's real domestic problems, to structure a governmental platform."

Attempt Denounced

In his speech, Mr. Abdala Bucaram Ortiz asserted that nothing and no one will prevent the twosome, whose joint candidacy the PRE recently made official, from coming to power in 1992, despite the famous "plan tiro" ["gunshot plan"] that is being talked about in social gatherings.

"I shall know how to guard against possible attempts against my life, and there will be no airplane accidents with regard to myself. This talk only goes to show that many fear Abdala's coming to power," he said.

When asked who is organizing the alleged plot with a view to eliminating him, he said that shortly he will convene a press conference where he will provide more details in that respect.

Paraguay

Congress Summoned To Debate Election Deadline

PY2602145091 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish
26 Feb 91 p 5

[Text] The executive branch yesterday issued a decree calling for special congressional sessions from 28 February to 8 March to debate the amendment of Article 160 of the Electoral Code.

This decree was a response to a request from the Colorado Party, which on 19 March asked the president to call the sessions.

The resolution, which bears No. 8,751, decrees:

"To call for special sessions by the two chambers of Congress from 28 February to 8 March 1991 to debate the amendment of Paragraph 1 of Article 160 of the Electoral Code concerning the deadline for registration of candidates for the municipal elections scheduled for 26 May 1991, an amendment which will be submitted by the executive branch."

The president himself said on 22 February that a request by Dr. Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin, PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party] president, to also amend Article 362 was inappropriate. The decree issued yesterday confirmed his position.

The PLRA's situation in Congress will become more difficult because this sector will not attend the sessions on the amendment of Article 160 "as a protest against this partial resolution."

After a meeting with President Andres Rodriguez which was attended by the presidents of the ANR [National Republican Association], PLRA, PRF [Febrerista Revolutionary Party], and PDC [Christian Democratic Party], Benitez Florentin said: "Since we were asked to support the amendment of this article, we also asked for support to amend Article 362, which is very unfair." Article 362 regulates the designation of electoral board members.

Asked what position they will adopt if the executive branch asks Congress to amend only Article 160, the PLRA president replied that PLRA lawmakers could decide not to attend the sessions or massively oppose the amendment. Each lawmaker may also be allowed to make his own choice, he said. The PRF and PDC presidents opposed calling the congressional session.

In its whereas clause, the decree states that the government is trying to promote a democratic, pluralistic, and participative process and that the participation of all political forces which operate within the electoral law should be facilitated to comply with this objective.

The decree adds: "It should also be noted that the political party that has requested the summoning of the special congressional sessions obtained the majority of votes in the most recent elections, both for president and for Congress."

Diaz Perez Appointed New Finance Minister

PY2502154091 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] The president of the Republic this morning appointed the new finance minister. He is the current Finance Studies Under Secretary Juan Jose Diaz Perez. He is a 46-year-old economist who began his public career after the 1989 coup. He holds a master's degree in business administration and was the executive director of Urupabol [Permanent Joint Commission of Uruguay, Paraguay, and Bolivia] before the IDB [Inter American Development Bank]. Diaz Perez this morning went to Government House at the invitation of the president of the Republic who offered him the post.

We must only wait for the corresponding decree to be published in the official gazette before Diaz Perez assumes the post from which Enzo Debernardi recently resigned.

New Minister Views Appointment

PY2602124491 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 25 Feb 91 pp 14-15

[Excerpt] Dr. Juan Jose Diaz Perez will be the new finance minister, replacing Enzo Debernardi, who resigned. The newly designated minister will be sworn in by President Andres Rodriguez at 0900 tomorrow morning at Lopez Palace.

Diaz Perez, who previously served as finance studies under secretary, told the press that he could not yet set priorities for action in that ministry because he is waiting for recommendations and instructions from the executive branch.

Nevertheless, he stated: "We are trying to continue the line followed by the Finance Ministry in terms of internal matters at the ministry. We have Decree Law 15, which I think is very good and which restructures the institution. We are going to think about tax reform issues and improving administration. We are going to see what instructions we get from the executive branch regarding the foreign debt and other issues I must discuss in length with the president."

He said he will do everything possible "to fulfill and carry out this function, which is one of great responsibility. I will try to apply all my professional experience in the positive fulfillment of this role."

Asked whether his nomination represents a continuation of the policies implemented by Debernardi, he said: "I do not know if we could say that, but I do not think there will be great changes. I would not say, however, that it will be a continuation of Debernardi's work. [passage omitted]

Peru

Reshuffle at Foreign Ministry Leads to 'Crisis'

PY2602131091 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 22 Feb 91 p 11

[Excerpt] The purge in the Peruvian Foreign Ministry and the arbitrary suspension of promotions—promotions for 30 officials are still up in the air—during the Peruvian Foreign Ministry's worst crisis have so annoyed diplomats that there is a possibility of mass resignations.

Amid general uncertainty due to unexpected dismissals of career diplomats, EXPRESO was able to detect a rebellious tone this morning after the news about the dismissal of the leadership of the Foreign Ministry—which we reported yesterday—was announced today.

Carlos Torres y Torres Lara, prime minister and foreign minister, released a brief note last night with the obvious intention of playing down the serious crisis and trying to present it as a "renewal of officials" in the Foreign Ministry's high leadership.

With the exception of Hugo Palma Valderrama, secretary general and vice minister, who "will be given an important diplomatic mission," according to the foreign minister, no one knows what will happen to the other diplomats, many of whom have already been dismissed.

The new secretary general and vice minister will be Alejandro San Martin, who was Peruvian ambassador to Austria.

According to the chain of command, vice under secretaries fall below the vice minister. The strange thing is

that not all the positions have been filled, and every new official has been given two positions.

Under Secretary for Political Affairs Luis Solari Tudela has been replaced by Arturo Montoya, who will also hold the position of planning secretary, replacing Jose Romero.

The position of economic affairs under secretary position, which was held by Luzmila Zanabria (president of the Association of Diplomatic Officials), was given to Alejandro Gordillo, who will also hold the position of under secretary of multilateral affairs. The position of under secretary for specia. .. Tairs is still vacant.

The Administration Undersecretariat was given to Raul Pinto Alvarez and the position of inspector was given to Mario Pareja Lecaros, who replaces Alejandro Salamanca. [passage omitted]

Minister Views New Appointments

PY2602140091 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 22 Feb 91 p A4

[Text] Foreign Minister Carlos Torres y Torres Lara yesterday swore in Alejandro San Martin Caro as his new vice minister, replacing Hugo Palma Valderrama. Torres said every government has the right to make new guidelines in its policy.

He said that this is a normal change in the foreign service, adding that it is an exaggeration to say that a purge is being carried out. He indicated: "I would like to announce that a 30-year career diplomat has been appointed vice minister."

Torres y Torres Lara said San Martin, who has served as ambassador to Austria, as Peru's UN representative in Vienna, and as a professor and director at the Diplomatic Academy, is a lawyer and a first-class diplomat.

He added: "He is a man who honors Peruvian diplomacy, who carries on the best Peruvian traditions, and who will continue the work of another distinguished Peruvian diplomat who served as secretary general, the distinguished Hugo Palma."

He said the changes required for the new administration are being made and that he hopes they will serve to continue the long and brilliant Peruvian diplomatic tradition within the new framework of a renewed Foreign Ministry.

He added: "What we want is to make a closer link between Peruvian diplomacy and the country's internal problems. Our diplomacy abroad must carry out active work linked to our internal problems. Our main problems are violence, drug trafficking, trade, the readmission of the country into the international community, and the linking of our diplomacy with our internal problems."

Torres y Torres Lara explained that this linking action has not been neglected but that it should be strengthened with a stronger and more effective effort to take these problems abroad.

He said: "We must actively cooperate with the president to speed up Peru's readmission. We must stimulate our foreign trade. We are also having a problem with cholera; our products are not being accepted abroad due to a lack of information or wrong information."

Asked about the guidelines used for the changes at the Foreign Ministry and whether this was a government reprisal because some ambassadorial appointments were not approved by Congress, Torres y Torres Lara did not say anything more and then departed. New Vice Minister Alejandro San Martin did not want to talk to the media either.

APRA Leader Criticizes Economic Policy

PY2502025091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2023 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Excerpt] Lima, 23 Feb (EFE)—Luis Alva Castro, American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) secretary general, has harshly criticized the Peruvian Government's "nefarious and starvation-causing" economic policy.

During a meeting last night in memory of late APRA founder Victor Raul Haya de la Torre, Alva Castro also referred to the support given by APRA members to current President Alberto Fujimori in the 1990 elections in order to defeat the rightist candidate, writer Mario Vargas Llosa. "We of the APRA voted against the 'shock' policy Vargas Llosa wanted to implement, for free education and labor stability, and against layoffs for workers," Alva Castro said.

He also called for a national mobilization to protest Fujimori's "unfulfilled electoral promises." "The people's desire expressed in the last elections has been betrayed," he said.

The APRA won third place in the 1990 elections, after five years of government during which inflation increased 3.5 million percent.

Alva Castro's criticism coincided with the negotiations between the executive branch and workers and businessmen in an effort to solve the salary and unemployment problems. On 22 February, Labor Minister Alfonso de los Heros met with union and business sectors to study the salary issue; he admitted: "it is truly low." [passage omitted]

* Fujimori's Approval Rating Seen Declining

91SM0197A Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 3 Feb 91 p A4

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori's popularity rating dropped during the first month of this year compared with last year. Based on a Datum poll of 4[illegible]0 persons in Greater Lima, the percentage of those who approve and disapprove of his performance as president is similar: 42 and 43 percent, with the remaining 15 percent either not responding or saying they do not know. However, the poll taken in December yielded figures of 60 and 30 percent, a drop of 18 points in the "approval" category and an increase of 13 in the "disapproval" column, as one can see in the

table below. The graph below [not reproduced] shows Fujimori's popularity rating curve since assuming office in July. While his popularity rose until September, the slight drop in August due to economic adjustments is clear, as the graph shows, and from November until last month his popularity has steadily declined.

Variation in Approval Rating of President Alberto Fujimori

Do you approve or disapprove of President Fujimor 's performance in office so far? (Answers in percent)

	December	January '91	Variation
Approve	60	42	-18
Disapprove	30	43	+13
Do not know/No response	10	15	+5

Variation in popularity (January): Average

President Alberto Fujimori's Popularity Rating

(In percent)	Jul	Aug 1	Aug 2	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan '91
Approve	53	59	53	58	59	69	60	42
Disapprove	15	7	35	28	35	26	30	43
Do not know/No response	32	34	12	14	6	5	10	15

* Industrialist Comments on Negative Conditions

91SM0197B Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 1 Feb 91 p B12

[Text] "Industrial activity must keep up with the times, but this is not only true of industrial activity, but of the country as a whole. Open, modern industry in a closed, backward country is a contradiction in terms."

These observations were made by Salvador Majluf, president of the National Association of Industries (SNI).

"It is not the deficit, cost overruns, and inefficiency of our ports and airports that isolate us in our capital cities, nor does the lack of security that prevails in them confine us to our own factories. Are our hands not tied by our rigid labor stability and the industrial community?" Majluf asked.

"Is it not one more contradiction to lower tariffs for foreign products without lowering internal tariffs expressed in excessive taxes and the numerous bureaucratic regulations of which industry is the prime victim?" he asked.

"A single fact tells the whole story: Industry pays no less than 58.5 percent of all taxes collected by the government."

The technocratic offensive aimed at national industry, based solely on prejudice, should not make us forget that it relies on a potentially infinite resource in Peru: human resources, he said.

Such an offensive must not cause us to forget that industry does not pillage the country's natural resources, many of which are exhaustible, he said.

"Nor can it make us forget that exporting industrial products is the best guarantee against the balance of payments crisis because their prices are more stable on the world market."

Likewise, he observed, it must not make us forget that developed countries depend less and less on natural resources for their economic expansion. Could we join the world economy without taking this fact into account?

"Modernization requires a national development plan that takes new factors into account."

Such a plan dares not make the mistake of failing to administer an industrial policy designed in terms of national interests, a practice followed by all successful countries throughout history, he maintained.

Development cannot be generated by and does not fall miraculously from heaven. Rather, it is the logical result of a medium- and long-term strategy. Peru cannot fail to have one, he said, adding that the country's problems are rooted in many causes. It is up to analysts and historians to ascertain them.

"And yet, giving in to one of those ideological or technocratic fads that overcome us from time to time, we have recently begun to blame national industry exclusively for all these evils."

Such a conclusion is worse than an error. Rather, it is at the same time a dangerous smokescreen that may conceal from the country the most important cause of such evils: the hypertrophy of government and its functional inefficiency, which drive from the heart of the national development strategy the one thing which in the distant and recent past has made Western countries and the nations of Southeast Asia prosperous, raising the standard of living of their peoples with industrial activity, Majluf concluded.